

## Softball Team Headed to Playoffs

See More, Page 13

# The Tom-Tom



A Student Publication of  
**EAST CENTRAL**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Volume 67, Number 3

April 2016



## WarriorFest

More Photos, Page 9

# ECCC Announces 2016 Hall of Fame

Recipients of Hall of Fame and other honors were recognized during the annual Awards Day program held April 28, 2016, at East Central Community College.

Selection to the Hall of Fame is considered the highest honor a student can receive at the college, according to Dr. Billy Stewart, ECCC president, who presented the awards.

"To be considered for the prestigious honor," Dr. Stewart said, "students must demonstrate exemplary character, superior scholarship, worthy leadership and contribute to the betterment of East Central Community College."

Hall of Fame inductees for 2016 include: Louise Berryhill of Union, Anthony Emmons of Lake, Hannah Mitchell of Lawrence, Benjamin Pace and Devin Skinner, both of Philadelphia, and Kaylee Yates of Decatur.

Berryhill is a graduate of Newton County High School and the daughter of Richard and Paula Berryhill of Union.

She was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges and received the L.B. Simmons History Award, Conrad Barnes Math and Science Scholarship and Lucille Wood Scholarship.

She serves as vice president of fellowship for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and is a drum major for the

Wall O' Sound Marching Band. She is a member of the President's Council, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Concert Choir, Voce vocal ensemble and Catholic Campus Ministries.

Those nominating her wrote, "Louise Berryhill is one of the hardest workers and brightest, most intelligent students on this campus. She excels in all that she does, classes and otherwise. She is involved in many activities and is usually a major part of those activities. She has the most spirit, ambition, and intelligence of any person I know. I cannot think of any one other student who would embody a Hall of Fame student any better than her."

Emmons is a graduate of Lake High School and the son of Tim and Kathy Emmons of Lake.

He was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team and Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. He received the R.O. and Bertha Hannah Scholarship and the Tony Dobbs Memorial Golf Scholarship, as well as valedictorian, STAR Student, ACT, band and choir scholarships.

He serves as vice president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, treasurer of Warrior Corps, French horn section leader for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, tenor section leader for the Concert Choir, and is a member of the Pep Band, EC Encore Players, *Wo-He-Lo*

yearbook staff and Student Education Association.

Those nominating him wrote, "Anthony Emmons is a strong representation of East Central Community College and its vision. Through various leadership roles and several educational opportunities, he always strives to be the best that he can be. Instead of working on just himself, he also helps others to strive to do the same. ... His kindness and motivation allow him to better anything around him. ... He is a truly exceptional student and an even more exceptional human being. ..."

Mitchell is a graduate of Newton County High School and the granddaughter of Earnest and Patty Sue Gibbs of Lawrence. She is the daughter of the late Dedria Mitchell.

She was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges and received the La-Z-Boy Scholarship and John Lambert Neill Memorial Scholarship. She was also awarded scholarships for ACT, choir and band.

She serves as vice president of leadership for Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, trombone section leader for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, alto section leader for the concert choir, head media technician for the Colle-



BERRYHILL



EMMONS



MITCHELL



PACE



SKINNER

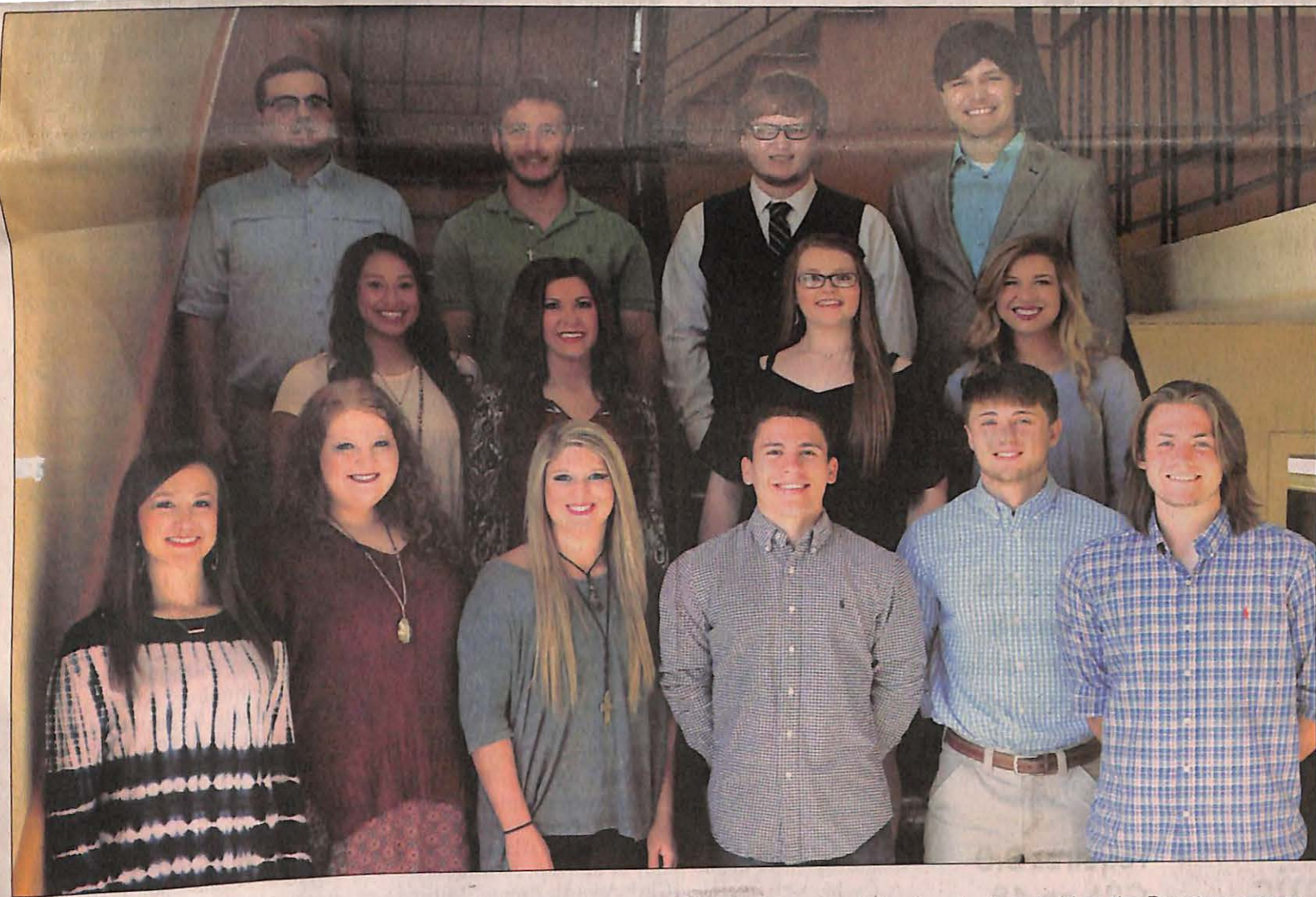


YATES

See HALL OF FAME, Page 2



## ECCC Graduation



**ECCC Class Favorites Named:** These students were recently selected class favorites following elections held on the Decatur campus. Pictured are (front row, from left) freshmen Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, Jordan Phillips of Decatur, Hannah Payne of Union, Peyton Jones of Louisville, Colton Tharp of Sebastopol and Will Stewart of Decatur; (second row, from left) sophomores Mahalia Gibson of Hattiesburg, Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater, Hannah Mitchell of Lawrence and Brooke Payne of Union; and (back row, from left) sophomores Kirk Griffin of Union, Devin Skinner of Philadelphia, Anthony Emmons of Lake and Evan Derrick of Morton.

## Jenna Wright Selected ECCC Instructor of the Year

Jenna Wright of Madden was selected the 2015-16 Instructor of the Year at East Central Community College.

When notified of her selection, Wright said, "I was overwhelmed when I found out that I received this honor. I am grateful to God first, my husband, and my co-workers for the support and encouragement they give me daily."

It is those co-workers who top the list of people who have influenced her career the most.

"My biggest influence would have to be my co-workers at EC, being that this is my first job out of graduate school. The Math and Computer Science Department took me under their wing and have taught me everything I know, not only about the art of teaching, but the importance of compassion towards students."

Wright has been employed as a mathematics instructor at the college since 2012.

Her honors include selection as 2016 HEADWAE (Higher Education Appreciation Day: Work Toward Academic Excellence) Instructor of the Year.

When asked about her advice to those who are considering a career in teaching, Wright said, "Teaching is a calling and will be what you make it. Learn all you can from the people around you, and laugh with your students daily."

She earned the bachelor's degree in math education at Troy University and completed a master's in statistics at Mississippi State University.

Prior to joining the ECCC faculty, she was a graduate teaching assistant at Mississippi State University.



Jenna Wright was selected the 2015-16 East Central Community College Instructor of the Year.

# ECCC Graduation set for May 6 at Neshoba Coliseum

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart said the college could have another record graduating class, with more than 600 students applying to graduate May 6 when the institution holds its 87th Commencement beginning at 6 p.m. in the Neshoba County Coliseum in Philadelphia.

East Central had its largest graduating class in history in May 2015 when 568 students received diplomas or certificates.

Dr. Stewart said that the final number of graduates will be determined after all applications for graduation are reviewed and final grades for the spring 2016 semester are posted.

Included in the total are those who completed degree requirements following the 2015 summer and fall terms, according to Dr. Teresa Houston, vice president for instruction.

This year's Commencement will also be available for viewing on live stream video by visiting ECCC's website at [www.eccc.edu](http://www.eccc.edu).

## East Central Launches First Mobile App

East Central Community College launched its first mobile application in March that is available for both Apple and Android operating platforms, including phones and tablets.

The app is powered by BFAC, a Mississippi-based company that is working with several other community colleges in the state through the Mississippi Virtual Community College consortium.

To locate and download the app to a phone or tablet, search East Central Community College in your device's app store.

The mobile app includes information for prospective and current students, alumni, and visitors to ECCC. It also provides easy access to the college's eLearning online web area and the MyEC intranet portal, as well as social media access, news, a campus calendar, a photo gallery, academic schedules and more.

In addition, those who allow push notifications when downloading the app will receive other important updates from the college as that feature is incorporated in the future.

"Communication is an important Institutional Commitment in the college's strategic plan for the future, *2020 Vision*," said ECCC President Dr. Billy Stewart. "An action plan within this commitment states that the college will enhance the use of online resources to increase information available to current students, potential students, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends and supporters of the college. This mobile app is one way we are accomplishing that."



EC's first mobile app was launched in March.

## HALL OF FAME

From Page 1

gians rock and roll band, and is a member of the EC Encore Players, Voce vocal ensemble, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Jazz Band and Can Bangers percussion ensemble.

Those nominating her wrote, "Hannah Mitchell lives up to the standard of Excellence with Class. ... She has made her mark on East Central by her numerous leadership positions she has earned. ... Her mind is set to achieve goals, no matter the obstacle. She excels in her academics and extracurricular activities. She has helped many people by helping them understand things that seem confusing in class. She is willing to help those in need, which speaks for her character."

Pace is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and the son of Derek and Patty Pace of Philadelphia.

He was selected to the Phi

Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic First Team, HEAD-WAE Student of the Year and was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. He received the Aaron Ronald Davis Memorial Scholarship, Ben Myers Memorial Scholarship, Classes of 1957, 1958 and 1959 Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship. In addition, he received awards in both state and national competition for Phi Beta Lambda.

He serves as president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, president of the President's Council, co-president of Warrior Corps, and is a member of Concert Choir, Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Baptist Student Union.

Those nominating him wrote, "Ben Pace is an ECCC Warrior through and through. He strives for perfection in all that

he does and it is evident in his accomplishments both academically and in the extracurricular activities that he is involved in. ... Ben is very unassuming and his hard work and dedication in everything he attempts sets him apart from other students. ... Ben is one of the finest students I have had the opportunity to work with at ECCC."

Skinner is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and the son of Scott and Angie Skinner of Philadelphia.

He was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. He received the freshman engineering award and the Ben Myers Memorial Scholarship. He was also selected a freshman and sophomore class favorite.

He serves as president of Alpha Alpha Epsilon engineering club, vice president of the sophomore class, co-captain of the tennis team, co-president of the Baptist Student Union and a leader for the BSU

drama team. He is a member of Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Warrior Corps, President's Council and Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society.

Those nominating him wrote, "Devin Skinner is a person of great quality and substance. ... He treats everyone who he meets with friendliness and he does not ever seem to meet a stranger. ... Devin is very committed to doing the best that he can in the classroom because he knows that his studies are one of the keys to fulfilling his dreams. ... By holding leadership positions in several organizations on campus, he strives to lead and be a positive example in the lives of others on campus. ..."

Yates is the daughter of Karen Robertson of Decatur and the late Mickey Yates.

She was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges. She received the Leon Eubanks KALJYC-Peers

Scholarship and the Bonnie P. Saxton Scholarship. She was also selected a freshman class favorite and a sophomore Homecoming maid.

She serves as president of the Student Body Association, co-president of the Baptist Student Union, vice president of the President's Council and is a member of Concert Choir, Centralettes dance line, Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Warrior Corps, Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society and the *Wo-He-Lo* yearbook staff. In addition, she served as vice president of her freshman class.

Those nominating her wrote, "... I can think of no one who has been more involved and more dedicated to East Central Community College than Kaylee Yates. Not only has she been a fully involved and committed member of numerous campus clubs and organizations, she has also put every effort into maintaining a high GPA with plans to finish her degree and attend physical therapy school. I have no doubt that whatever Kaylee does in her future, she will not only make her alma mater proud, but she will be a loyal alumna as well. ..."

Additional honors presented during Awards Day include the following:

Career award recipients include Josh Crutcher of Sebastopol, residential carpentry; Christina McKinnion of Noxapater, cosmetology and Career Student of the Year; and Tristan Clay Willis and Tina Vaughn, both recipients of the Welding & Cutting "Taylor Cup."

Technical awards were presented to Jordon Prisock of Louisville, collision repair technology; Jacob Robinson of Meridian, automotive technology; Malinda Harris of Newton, early childhood education technology; Alan Graham of Forest, electrical technology; Jay Riser of Forest, heating and air conditioning technology; Tamara Boydston of Louisville, culinary arts technology; Karen Cleveland of Decatur, hotel and restaurant management technology; Bay White of Sturgis and Samuel Kelly of Union, manufacturing and machining technology; Caleb Terry of

EC Encore Players Award; Chris Kelley of Newton, ECCC Gospel Choir Award; Charlie Wilcher of Carthage, S. Lebrun Hutchinson Engineering Scholarship; Blake Fortenberry of Forest, Freshman Mathematics Award; Megan Parrish of Pascagoula, Sophomore Mathematics Award; Bruce Hedrick of Newton, Secondary Education Award; Emily Beckham of Philadelphia, Myrtle R. Hutchison Elementary Education Award; Memry Thompson of Morton, Mississippi Business Educators Association Award; Ben Pace, Caleb Brown, CrisAnn Bryan and Katie Hillman, all of Philadelphia, and Madelon Taylor of Louisville, all recipients of Phi Beta Lambda Hall of Fame; Chaney Mills of Hickory, Alyne Simmons Recruitment Grant; Madelon Taylor of Louisville and Hannah May of Little Rock, co-recipients of *The Tom-Tom* Award; and Katie McCool of Louisville, Lucille Wood Scholarship.

Alumni Memorial Awards were presented to Michael Whitlock of Philadelphia, Billy Wayne Baucum Secondary Education Award; John Creekmore of Noxapater, W.A. Coursey, Jr. Engineering Award; Kellen Clark of Chunky, Danny Ray Killens Engineering Award; Scott Main of Meridian, Ruth Carr-Vincent Academic Award for Excellence in Non-Traditional Education; Jacob McNeil of Louin, Alatha Chaney English Award; Paxton Holmes of Morton, Sara Carr Deaton Business Technology Award; Sarah Laird of Meridian, Sue Yarbrough Fulgham Speech Award; Kellen Clark of Chunky, Arno Vincent Award for Academic Excellence in Athletics; Corey Hilliard of Ocean Springs, William S. Giffin Men's Intramural Award; Johntha' Hughes of Hattiesburg, Earline Wood Memorial Award for Women's Basketball; Blaze Gibbs of Brandon, Homer F. Hunter Athletic Managers Award; Jesse Hosket of French Camp, Andrew F. Webb Football Award; Ravion Henry of Carthage, Howard Sessums Men's Basketball Award; Ben Pace of Philadelphia, Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa Award; and Samm Thompson of Decatur, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award.

Faculty Memorial Awards



THE UNIVERSITY of  
**MISSISSIPPI**

**2015 University Transfer  
Champion Institution**  
by Phi Theta Kappa, International

Our Scholarships include:

# 2015 University Transfer Champion Institution

by Phi Theta Kappa, International

Our Scholarships include:

**\$4K**

**PTK  
Scholarships**

requires membership  
in PTK with 3.25 GPA  
on 48 transferrable  
community  
college hours

**\$4K**

**Academic  
Excellence  
Scholarships**

requires 3.5  
GPA on 48  
transferrable  
community  
college hours

**\$2K**

**Academic  
Excellence  
Scholarships**

requires 3.0  
GPA on 48  
transferrable  
community  
college hours

PTK Scholarships stack with one of the Academic Excellence Scholarships

[transfer.olemiss.edu](http://transfer.olemiss.edu)

Technical awards were presented to Jordon Prisock of Louisville, collision repair technology; Jacob Robinson of Meridian, automotive technology; Malinda Harris of Newton, early childhood education technology; Alan Graham of Forest, electrical technology; Jay Riser of Forest, heating and air conditioning technology; Tamara Boydston of Louisville, culinary arts technology; Karen Cleveland of Decatur, hotel and restaurant management technology; Bay White of Sturgis and Samuel Kelly of Union, manufacturing and machining technology; Caleb Terry of Newton, network support technology; and Laren Copeland of Walnut Grove, Technical Student of the Year.

Recipients of healthcare education awards include Kelsey Porter of Morton, associate degree nursing Outstanding Achievement; Shantel Body of Newton, practical nursing; and Michael Eichelberger of Conehatta, paramedic technology.

Those receiving special awards were Ben Pace of Philadelphia, Citizenship Award and Dr. Margaret Mosal for Leadership Scholarship; Kaitlyn Ware of Lake, Ann Burkes Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship; Aaron Scoggin of Lawrence, Alford J. Deaton Physics Award; Louise Berryhill of Union, Richard Fisher Organic Chemistry Award; Erica Myers of Philadelphia and John Thames of Decatur, co-recipients, East Central Environmental Club Award; Anna Claire Housley of Morton, Astronomy Club Award; Randy Phillips of Jackson, Anthony Coleman Men's Basketball Award; Kellen Clark of Chunky and Brittany Rasco of Pascagoula, co-recipients, Roy Pete Award for Soccer; Sarah Laird of Meridian, ECCC Concert Choir Award; Kirk Griffin of Union,

Ocean Springs, William S. Giffin Men's Intramural Award; Johnna' Hughes of Hattiesburg, Earline Wood Memorial Award for Women's Basketball; Blaze Gibbs of Brandon, Homer F. Hunter Athletic Managers Award; Jesse Hosket of French Camp, Andrew F. Webb Football Award; Ravion Henry of Carthage, Howard Sessums Men's Basketball Award; Ben Pace of Philadelphia, Jack B. Mayo Phi Theta Kappa Award; and Samm Thompson of Decatur, Dr. Edwin Miller Medical Services Award.

Faculty Memorial Awards were presented to Katie McCool of Louisville, Aaron R. Davis Memorial Scholarship; Weiying Wang of Noxapater, Frank Edwin & Nena Holt Leatherwood Biology Science Award; Katie McCool of Louisville, Dr. Shelby L. Harris Memorial Scholarship; Carly Dickerson of Louisville, J. Wallace Bedwell Business Award; Lindsey Aylon of Newton, Frank M. Cross Freshman Chemistry Award; Gage Leifried of Meridian, J. Andy Miller Freshman Engineering Award; Lauren Copeland of Walnut Grove, O.L. Newell Drafting Award; Alisha Tamara Savell of Philadelphia, Charles E. Pennington Business Technology Award;

Anastasia Crout of Lake, Robert G. Fick Memorial Scholarship; Lillian Shuler of Carthage, Ruth Hull Memorial *Wo-He-Lo* Award; Matt Mitchell of Lake, Jamie Clark Memorial Baseball Award; Makenzie Byrd of Sebastopol, Leon Eubanks Kaljyc-Peers Leadership Award; Pashien Kelley-Johnson of Diamondhead, L.B. Simmons History Award; Amanda Creekmore of Newton, Thomas W. Thrash Memorial Scholarship; and Khalil Triplett of Philadelphia, General William Patrick Wilson Academic Scholarship.

## MI-BEST Helps EC Students Earn GED, College Credit Simultaneously

East Central Community College is now offering Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST), a program that allows qualified participants to obtain their high school equivalency diploma while simultaneously working on college credit courses.

Erin Tramill and Whitney Amis serve as recruiters/navigators for ECCC's MI-BEST program.

Tramill holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Mississippi State University and is a former case manager at Central Mississippi Residential Center in Newton.

Amis received bachelor's and master's degrees in education

from Mississippi State University and is a former classroom instructor for both Brandon and Newton County high schools.

Tramill said, "We are allowing students to dual enroll in the GED program and six technical hours or the equivalent in one of the following workforce programs: Heating and Air Conditioning, Collision Repair, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Culinary Arts, and Industrial Maintenance."

There is no cost for tuition for MI-BEST students.

Prospective students should contact Tramill at 601-635-6255 or email [etramill@eccc.edu](mailto:etramill@eccc.edu).

# Faculty/Staff Corner

## EC President Appointed to PTK Presidential Advisory

East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart has been appointed to the new Presidential Advisory Board for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Stewart is one of only 33 college presidents nationwide on the board, which will provide input into the organization's strategic plan, priorities, and direction. Advisory Board members will advocate for Phi Theta Kappa, its members and its mission; serve as liaisons between Phi Theta Kappa headquarters and the college leaders in their states; and advise Phi Theta Kappa's executive director and other leaders.

"I am honored to be asked to serve on the Presidential Advisory Board for an organization that recognizes the academic achievements of community college students," said Stewart, who was named the eighth president of East Central Community College in July 2012. "Having attended the inaugural meeting of the Advisory Board, I look forward to continuing to participate in the discussion among community college leaders from across the nation in regards to initiatives that will enhance Phi Theta Kappa's impact on student success. And, having two children who are currently members of Phi Theta Kappa here at East Central, I am personally invested in the outcome of those discussions."

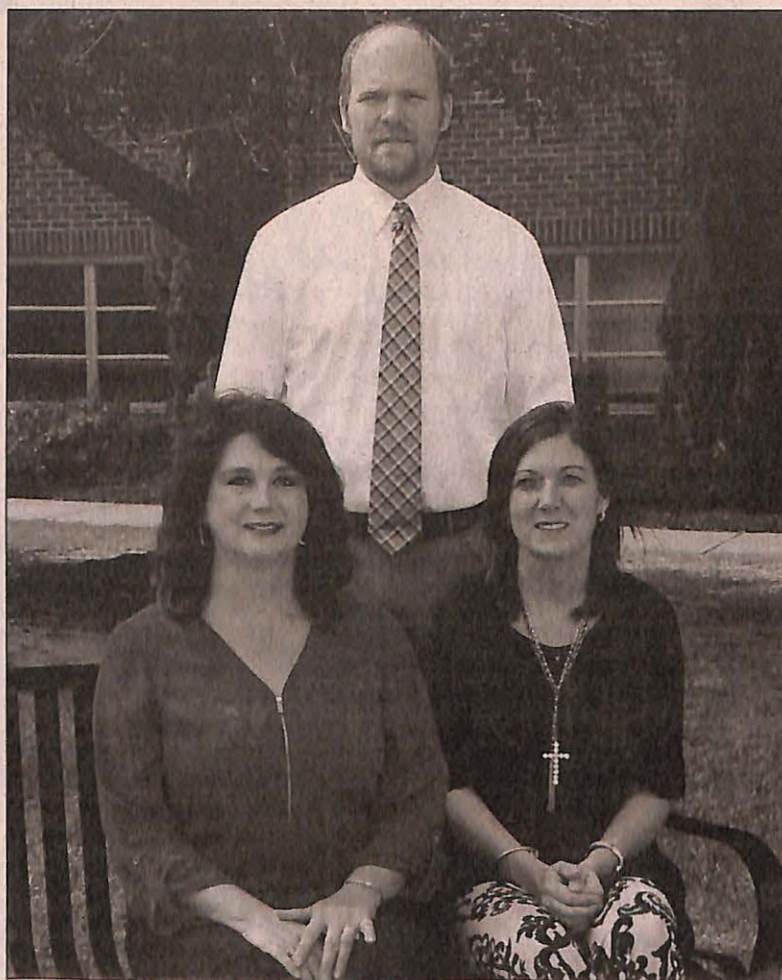
Phi Theta Kappa, with headquarters in Jackson, is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,285 chapters on two-year and community college campuses in the U.S. and overseas. East Central Community College is home to the Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

A native of Pearl, Stewart earned his bachelor's degree in history and his master's degree in curriculum and instruction, both from the University of Southern Mississippi, and his doctorate in higher education administration from Mississippi State University.

At East Central, Stewart initiated a strategic planning process to shape and guide the future of the institution. As a result, *2020 Vision* was adopted in February of 2013 and includes a long-term desire to be nationally recognized and locally preferred while meeting the educational and training needs of all residents of the college district.



STEWART



**Selected Lamplighters:** East Central Community College faculty members who were selected to attend the annual Lamplighters Conference included (seated, from left) Cathy May and Mel Pinter, and (standing) Luke Howell. May is a mathematics instructor and has been employed at the college since 2010. Pinter serves as an instructor in the college's Associate Degree Nursing program and joined the ECCC faculty in 2008. Howell was employed by the college in 2010 and teaches Collision Repair Technology, a division of the Workforce Education Department. The annual Lamplighters program honors outstanding community and junior college instructors throughout the state. This year's conference was held October 20-22, 2015, and was hosted by East Central and Meridian community colleges.

## Tierra Robinson Joins EC's Public Information Staff

Tierra Robinson has joined the Office of Public Information at East Central Community College as sports information/communications specialist.

Robinson assumed the newly created position on Feb. 15.

As sports information/communications specialist, Robinson is responsible for overseeing all aspects of media, sports information, and promotion of the college's 10 intercollegiate sports teams, as well as assisting the Office of Public Information in overall college media, promotion, external and internal communications and marketing initiatives.

A native of Eufaula, Ala., Robinson received her bachelor's degree in integrated marketing communications from the University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Prior to joining East Central, she was a reporter for Fox 30 News in Meridian. She also has interned with WTOK-TV in Meridian covering sports, including SEC Media Days, and has served as a videographer, editor, photographer and reporter for UWA's Studio 96 Productions and as a filmer and assistant video coordinator for the UWA football team.

While a student at UWA, Robinson won several awards in the Southeast Journalism Conference competition and was named UWA's 2015 Broadcast Journalist of the Year. She also was a UWA Ambassador and Miss University of West Alabama.

She is an active member of the Association of Women in Sports Media.



ROBINSON

## Ezell selected graduate assistant football coach for Warriors

Ben Ezell of Leighton, Ala., was recently selected a graduate assistant football coach at East Central Community College, announced head football coach Ken Karcher.

Ezell will serve as the Running Backs Coach.

Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Ezell served the past two years as a graduate assistant coach for East Tennessee State University of the Southern Conference with its brand new FCS football program.

His duties with ETSU's Buccaneers included coaching wide receivers and serving as the offensive graduate assistant coach.

He began his coaching career in 2013 at James Clemens High School, in Madison, Ala. where he coached quarterbacks and served as the freshman offensive coordinator. He also served as the



EZELL

## Ryals Named MSVCC

### Instructor of the Year

East Central Community College instructor Chris Ryals of Union was recently selected Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) Instructor of the Year.

Ryals teaches drafting and design technology and has been employed at the college since 2011.

Chas Evans, who teaches guitar



# Ryals Named MSVCC Instructor of the Year

East Central Community College instructor Chris Ryals of Union was recently selected Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) Instructor of the Year.

Ryals teaches drafting and design technology and has been employed at the college since 2011.

Chas Evans, who teaches guitar and music classes and also serves as director of the Collegians rock and roll band, was also nominated for the award. He joined the ECCC staff in 2014.

The two finalists traveled to the Creating Futures Through Technology conference in Biloxi March 2-4, 2016. All finalists from the 15 community colleges in Mississippi were recognized at the MSVCC luncheon on March 2, and the recipient of the award was announced.



RYALS



**Hurt, Ferguson Receive MBEA Awards:** East Central Community College instructors Judy Hurtt (left) and Christy Ferguson were honored at the Mississippi Business Education Association's (MBEA) annual conference. Hurtt received the MBEA Outstanding Community College Business Educator award and Ferguson received the Outstanding Career and Technical Business Educator award. Hurtt also serves as community college representative to MBEA and Ferguson is president-elect.

Coach Ken Karcher.

Ezell will serve as the Running Backs Coach. Prior to joining the ECCC staff, Ezell served the past two years as a graduate assistant coach for East Tennessee State University of the Southern Conference with its brand new FCS football program.

His duties with ETSU's Buccaneers included coaching wide receivers and serving as the offensive graduate assistant coach.

He began his coaching career in 2013 at James Clemens High School, in Madison, Ala. where he coached quarterbacks and served as the freshman offensive coordinator. He also served as the weight room coach for the freshman team.

He also served as the assistant varsity football and baseball coach of Randolph School in Huntsville, Ala. in 2014, where he was later promoted to interim head baseball coach and football offensive coordinator in the summer of 2014.

Ezell is a 2007 graduate of Colbert County (Ala.) High School, where he was a football standout at quarterback.

He continued his football career at the University of North Alabama in Florence, where he played quarterback.

Ezell received a bachelor's degree in physical education at UNA in 2013, and earned a master of arts in kinesiology and sports studies from ETSU in 2015.



EZELL

# Blaylock, Harris, Lyons Look Forward To New Activities After Retirement

East Central Community College faculty and staff members Vicki Blaylock, Tina Harris and Dr. Evadna Lyons are each looking forward to new and varied activities when they retire at the end of the 2015-16 term.

Blaylock joined the ECCC staff as choral director/vocal instructor in 2000 and also serves as Fine Arts Division chairperson. She has completed 33 total years in the field of education.

As with many who have worked in education for so long, Blaylock said it's the students and her colleagues she will miss most.

"Retirement is bittersweet," she said. "East Central has two great things: wonderful students and great people working here. It will seem strange to give up my identity as someone's music teacher. That may be the hardest adjustment but life is comprised of chapters and it is time for me to move to the next chapter."

Those students have also been the best part of her job. "The thing I have enjoyed most is teaching music to my students and watching them grow to produce a musical program that touches others."

She added, "If I could give advice to my students it would be to choose a career that you enjoy getting up and doing each day. That has been the biggest blessing for me. For me, my work as a music educator was not a job. It was fun every day."

Her retirement plans include family, church and hobbies. "I look forward to visiting my parents, my 96-year-old grandmother, my sister and others. I plan to get more involved with church activities and spend time with my hobbies, including read-



VICKI BLAYLOCK

ing, refinishing furniture and playing my new grand piano."

After her husband, Ronnie, retires, Blaylock said they plan to retire to western North Carolina and hope to volunteer with the Red Cross.

The Blaylocks have two grown children: Clanton and Anna-Rose.

Harris has served as basic skills specialist in the college's Workforce Development Center since 2001. She has completed 25 years total in education.

When asked her thoughts as she nears retirement, she said, "I never thought I would retire this young, but I am so excited to begin this new phase of my life."

She said her plans include spending more time with her husband, Britt, and family, studying her Bible and working to become healthier.

"The one thing I look forward to most in retirement is being able to rest. I take medicine that makes me tired and sick a lot. I don't have energy to do anything except work now. I want to cook supper and clean house and would also like to teach and/or tutor part-time."

Like those before her, Harris says it's the people who have made her job enjoyable.

"I love working with the community, people in industry and the students at East Central. That is what I will miss most."

Lyons joined the ECCC faculty as an associate degree nursing instructor in 2009 and has completed 28 years in education.

Reflecting on her career and upcoming retirement, Lyons said, "I am grateful that God enabled me to fulfil my passion and



TINA HARRIS

purpose in life by teaching and being able to retire in early middle age. I truly love teaching students and I could literally teach for free. I also reflect on the challenging times that have occurred in my career and realized that though obstacles exist, God will always carry you through. I have been an instructor, director, professor, and program head, but the most important title that I have acquired is that of 'teacher.' I am proud to have touched the lives of thousands of nurses in Mississippi."

She added, "I have enjoyed teaching the students from the five-county area of East Central Mississippi. The students are intelligent, caring, compassionate and, most of all, have excellent manners."

In her retirement, Lyons said she hopes to take as many trips to the Florida beaches as possible and eventually would love to write a book, teach online and teach wellness education classes.

Lyons also said of her career, "It is important to give people opportunities based on their skills and talents. I was given an opportunity to teach at a very young age. This opportunity has allowed me to continue to grow and become an expert educator who has achieved a terminal degree. I am grateful that Dr. (Bill) Scaggs welcomed me with open arms into the wonderful world of educating students at the community college level over 28 years ago."

Retirees and other award recipients will be honored at the college's end-of-the-year faculty and staff luncheon scheduled May 6 in Mabry Cafeteria.



DR. EVADNA LYONS

# Warrior Viewpoints

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Farewell East Central

These past two years at East Central Community College have flown by. I cannot believe my time here at EC is coming to an end. As I reflect on the past two years I have spent here, so many things come to mind. There is no single word to use to describe my time here at EC.

I remember my senior year of high school how my mom and dad always said that this is where I needed to come, but I was determined that I was not coming here. I told my parents time and time again that I did not want to go to a community college, nor did I want to go somewhere that so many people from my senior class were going.

However, they finally talked me into coming, and I never knew nor expected the amazing journey that was ahead of me.

Coming to East Central has been nothing less than a blessing. I have met some of the absolute best faculty and staff members who know you by name and speak to you anytime they see you, whether it be at school or at the store. I have been able to get involved and be a part of almost any club I was able to join. I have met the most amazing and truest friends ever. I got back on track from a broken path, and re-found my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Most of all, I was blessed enough to be able to go to a school where the president knows you by name, always carries a smile, tries to be at all student events, and looks to God for everything he does.

The memories that I have made here are far too numerous to count. No matter what it was I was doing, I have had the best times while at East Central. These past two years have hands down been the best years of my life. My time here has been exactly what I made it. I have learned so much about myself, and I have grown and matured into who I am today. East Central was a major stepping stone for me and my journey through life. The things I have learned here will follow me the rest of my life. The people who I met here will always be dear to my heart. The memories that I have made here will forever be a part of my story.

As my time draws to a close at East Central, I will never forget anything that has happened to me here. In anything that I do throughout the rest of my life, I will always remember where I came from and how much of an impact EC had on my life.

I would like to thank everyone who has made East Central the best years of my life. Although I did not want to come to EC, I cannot imagine what my life would be like if I hadn't. God knew exactly what He was doing when He led me here. I would never take back my time at EC, and I would start it all over again if I could.

East Central has been a blessing to me in so many ways. East Central is so much more than just a community college. East Central Community College is a family. And it is a family that will always hold a special place in my heart.

"How lucky I am to have had something that makes saying



TAYLOR



## A College Blessed

We will have just dismissed from the annual Awards Day Ceremony in Huff Auditorium as you receive this final issue of *The Tom-Tom* for the 2015-16 school year—another year of great progress and positive change on the East Central Community College (ECCC) campus.

Awards Day is always a bittersweet moment for me. On the one hand, it's exciting to see our students recognized for their accomplishments. On the other hand, I also know that we will soon be saying goodbye

for now to our many students who will receive their diplomas and certificates at the May 6 Commencement Ceremony at the Neshoba County Coliseum.

Our college continues to be extremely blessed, and many of those blessings are brought forth in this issue of *The Tom-Tom*. I hope you will take the time to read about the talents and achievements of your fellow students and faculty and staff. It's the people who make ECCC the special place that it is, and inside these pages are some of their stories.

At the beginning of this semester we implemented two very important changes that affect all of us—implementation of the tobacco-free policy and the pilot four-day class schedule. We've had only a handful of incidents where individuals had to be reminded about the new tobacco-free policy. Some individuals have even chosen to use this opportunity to quit tobacco products. While we are just one semester into our four-day class schedule, all indications are that this is a positive experience for our students and our faculty and staff. I want to thank all of you for your adherence to the tobacco-free policy, and for your willingness to cooperate with and provide feedback about the four-day class schedule.

Speaking of Commencement, as you know, last May ECCC had the largest graduating class in history, with 568 students receiving degrees or certificates, an unprecedented 62 percent increase over the 2013-14 academic year in the number of students earning the two-year pre-baccalaureate Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, and an overall 36 percent one-year increase in students completing all programs, including pre-baccalaureate degrees, technical degrees, and certificates.

The college could have another record graduating class this year, with more than 600 students applying to graduate May 6. The final number of graduates will be determined after all applications for graduation are reviewed and final grades for the spring 2016 semester are posted, but it appears we will have another record. This year's Commencement will be available for viewing on live stream video by visiting ECCC's website at [www.eccc.edu](http://www.eccc.edu).

In closing, as I always do this time of year I want to congratulate those of you who are leaving us to continue your education at a college or university or beginning your career. Your college

## The EC Way



By Billy W. Stewart, Ph.D.

story.

As my time draws to a close at East Central, I will never forget anything that has happened to me here. In anything that I do throughout the rest of my life, I will always remember where I came from and how much of an impact EC had on my life.

I would like to thank everyone who has made East Central the best years of my life. Although I did not want to come to EC, I cannot imagine what my life would be like if I hadn't. God knew exactly what He was doing when He led me here. I would never take back my time at EC, and I would start it all over again if I could.

East Central has been a blessing to me in so many ways. East Central is so much more than just a community college. East Central Community College is a family. And it is a family that will always hold a special place in my heart.

"How lucky I am to have had something that makes saying goodbye so hard." -Winnie the Pooh

- Madelon Taylor, Tom-Tom Editor



SLAPPY TOONS

## SBA PRESIDENT

### Time at East Central has flown by

Who knew people were right when they said my two years at EC would fly by? It seems like just yesterday I was starting my freshman year praying I could make it through my first day of classes. I am now a sophomore preparing to graduate in May.

However, I am glad to say that EC has prepared me for the years to come in college and all the obstacles that life may throw my way. My two years at EC will always hold a special place in my heart and I will cherish them forever. I am thankful for all the opportunities and blessings EC has provided me with.

EC has an amazing faculty and staff that truly care for each of their students. They have taught me so much more than just academics, and I am forever grateful for them. I am sad to graduate, but excited to begin my new journey at the University of Mississippi.

So to sophomores as we prepare to graduate, I pray that continuing on to our next journey that we always follow our heart and never give up on our dreams. For freshmen, I pray that you do not take your last year at EC for granted. It will be gone before you know it, so enjoy every second.

Lastly I pray that everyone seeks God whole-heartedly and never loses sight of His will. I will miss everyone, but I know I am always a Warrior at heart. EC will forever be my home.

- Kaylee Yates, SBA President



YATES

ing degrees or certificates, an unprecedented 62 percent increase over the 2013-14 academic year in the number of students earning the two-year pre-baccalaureate Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, and an overall 36 percent one-year increase in students completing all programs, including pre-baccalaureate degrees, technical degrees, and certificates.

The college could have another record graduating class this year, with more than 600 students applying to graduate May 6. The final number of graduates will be determined after all applications for graduation are reviewed and final grades for the spring 2016 semester are posted, but it appears we will have another record. This year's Commencement will be available for viewing on live stream video by visiting ECCC's website at [www.eccc.edu](http://www.eccc.edu).

In closing, as I always do this time of year I want to congratulate those of you who are leaving us to continue your education at a college or university or beginning your career. Your college wishes you much success, and we hope you will continue to support ECCC in the future in whatever ways you can.

For those of you returning this summer or next fall, we wish you a safe, restful and rewarding break from your studies until we see you again for another successful year at East Central Community College.

God Bless,  
Dr. Billy W. Stewart,  
President  
East Central Community College

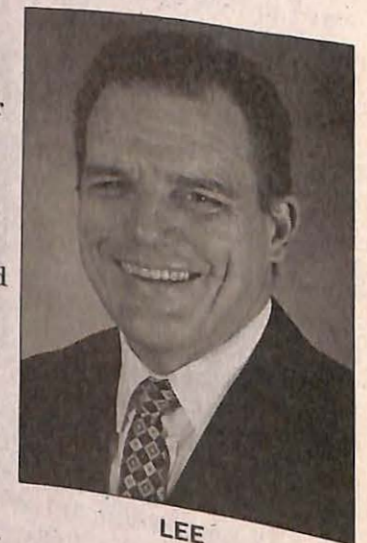
## FROM THE DESK OF DR. LEE

### Godspeed

My how time has flown! We have reached the end of the college year! Many of you have worked hard for two years or more and are getting ready for that memorable walk on Friday, May 6, at 6 p.m. in the Neshoba County Coliseum. Congratulations! We have certainly enjoyed the Class of 2016 as you have accomplished great things. Godspeed on your future endeavors and don't forget good old ECCC. Keep in touch through the ECCC Alumni Association. We are very interested in your future and want to keep up with you!

Graduates, you may want to take other courses required for your major so take them at ECCC for one-fourth the cost of tuition and fees at four-year institutions. Summer courses are available. If you have questions about this please come by Student Services and see an academic counselor.

For freshmen, graduation should be your ultimate goal. Persist and earn that diploma! You need it in today's world. Advance Registration for the fall and summer semesters continues. Classes are already filling up for next August so register now NOW before you leave for the summer. If you are undecided now I would go ahead and register now because classes will fill up, and the withdrawal fee is only \$40 if you choose to not return. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know. You can reach me at 601-635-6375 or [rlee@eccc.edu](mailto:rlee@eccc.edu).



LEE

Dr. Randall E. Lee  
Vice President for Student Services

The Tom-Tom is a student publication of East Central Community College in Decatur, Miss. It is published by the Office of Public Information. For more information, contact the staff at P.O. Box 129, Decatur, MS, 39327 or by phone at 601-635-2111, ext. 364, or toll free at 1-877-462-3222.

#### Accreditation

East Central Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Associate Degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of East Central Community College.

#### Notice of Non-Discrimination

East Central Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of East Central Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by Dr. Teresa Houston, Vice President for Instruction, Walter Arno Vincent Administration Building, Room 171, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327. Phone: 601-635-6202, Fax: 601-635-4011, [thouston@eccc.edu](mailto:thouston@eccc.edu).

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by Dr. Randall Lee, Vice President for Student Services, Eddie M. Smith Student Union, Room 201, Post Office Box 129, Decatur, MS 39327. Phone: 601-635-6375, Fax: 601-635-3247, [rlee@eccc.edu](mailto:rlee@eccc.edu).

#### Editor:

Madelon Taylor

#### Design Editor:

Hannah May

#### Opinions Editor:

Madison Barnett

#### Cartoonist:

Caleb Welch

Adviser: Amy Thompson

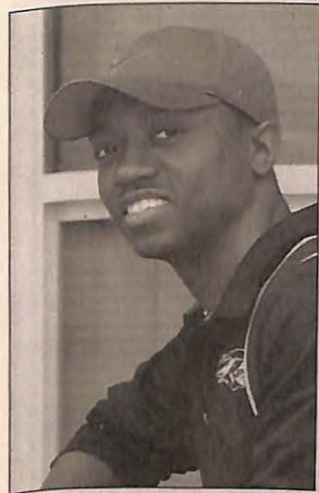


EAST CENTRAL  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Send news or story ideas  
to [athompson@eccc.edu](mailto:athompson@eccc.edu).



# East Central Introduces Four-Day Class Schedule



"It's a lot better. It equals out with time off and time in class."  
-William Jefferson



"I think it's better for students, especially non-traditional students who work. I think when we get acclimated to it we will wonder why we didn't do it sooner."  
-Blake Everett, English Instructor



"You do not have school on Fridays!"  
-Cody Beckham



"I thoroughly enjoy the day at the end of the week to plan for my courses."  
-Rachel Tyson, Speech Instructor



"I like the four-day schedule because it fits with my work schedule."  
-Yared Roman

Starting in Spring 2016, East Central changed from a five-day schedule to a pilot four-day class schedule. The classes that usually meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays now meet on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. The classes changed from 55-minute classes to an hour and 20 minutes.

During the implementation of this pilot program, Fridays are a day for learning opportuni-

ties, such as utilizing the Library and Success Center. Faculty members are also available on Fridays to visit with students in their offices, prepare for classes, complete other office duties and attend professional development opportunities.

EC is hopeful that students will use each Friday as a time to study and prepare for the next week of classes. The four-day class schedule will allow for four, 50-minute activity periods each

week for student organizations and clubs to meet as well as for students to eat lunch.

Commuter students may realize an overall savings in fuel costs, and students who have a part-time job will have the opportunity to work an extra shift on Fridays if they desire. EC also believes non-traditional students will find it easier to schedule classes around full-time employment, and the four-day class schedule

will give EC an opportunity to perform building, technology, and other maintenance in several instructional facilities on Fridays.

With the exception of the full slate of classes, the college will operate as normal on Fridays.

However, the cafeteria adjusted its breakfast, lunch, and dinner hours Monday through Thursday to accommodate students and the new class schedule.

## Pace, Davidson Selected Mr., Miss East Central



Named Mr., Miss ECCC: Skylar Davidson of Morton and Ben Pace of Philadelphia were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2015-16 school year.



Beauty and Beau Pageant: Winners and their respective hometowns are (from left) Darryl Rogers of Laurel, Ariel Enoch of Carthage, Colby Means of Union, Anna Claire Webb of Nixa, Makenzie Byrd (Most Beautiful) of Sebasticopol, Trevor Brown (Most Handsome) of Carthage, and Yared Roman (Most Beautiful) of Philadelphia. Other winners of the pageant are (from left) Darryl Rogers (Most Handsome) of Laurel, Ariel Enoch (Most Beautiful) of Carthage, Colby Means (Most Beautiful) of Union, Anna Claire Webb (Most Beautiful) of Nixa, Makenzie Byrd (Most Beautiful) of Sebasticopol, Trevor Brown (Most Handsome) of Carthage, and Yared Roman (Most Beautiful) of Philadelphia.

### FEATURED STUDENT

#### Focus on the student: Mary Barker

BY LAYNE LEPARD

Mary Barker is a freshman from Lawrence County High School in Monticello, Mississippi.

Q: What made you decide to come to East Central?

### OTHER VIEWS

#### Twenty Ways To Make The Most of Your Four-Day School Week

Beauty and Beau Pageant. Winners and their respective hometowns are (from left) Darryl Rogers of Laurel, Ariel Enoch of Carthage, Colby Morris of Union, Anna Claire Webb of Noxapater, Makenzie Byrd (Most Beautiful) of Sebastopol, Hunter Brown (Most Handsome) of Carthage, Chandler Posey and Jake Boatner, both of Philadelphia, Ashley Young of Louisville, and Ben Pace of Philadelphia.



**Named Mr., Miss ECCC:** Skylar Davidson of Morton and Ben Pace of Philadelphia were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2015-16 school year.

Ben Pace of Philadelphia and Skylar Davidson of Morton were selected Mr. and Miss East Central Community College for the 2015-16 school year by a vote of the student body in February.

A sophomore nursing major, Davidson is actively involved in various campus activities.

She is a member of the Warrior Corps, serving as co-president her sophomore year, and vice president of the Student Body Association. She is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions, Diamond Darlings, and President's Council. She also serves as a residence assistant for Barber Hall and is on the Dean's List.

Davidson was selected as a Freshman Class Favorite and Freshman Homecoming Maid, and Homecoming Queen this year.

A graduate of East Rankin Academy, she is the daughter of Joel and April Davidson of Morton.

A sophomore pre-dental major, Pace is actively involved and has received numerous honors.

He is president of Phi Theta Kappa and co-president of Warrior Corps this year. He also is a member of the Baptist Student Union, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Phi Beta Lambda, Concert Choir, President's List, and President's Council. As a freshman, he was a member of Ac'cents and Wall O' Sound Band.

Pace was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges, Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic First Team, and 2015-16 HEADWAE Student of the Year.

A graduate of Neshoba Central High School, he is the son of Derek and Patty Pace of Philadelphia.

## OTHER VIEWS

### Mr. EC: Ben Pace

My time at East Central Community College has made a huge impact on my life. It is so hard to comprehend how fast two years can pass by. Honestly, I can say that my time here has been the two best years of my life. The memories that I have made here will certainly last a lifetime, because here at East Central I have had endless opportunities and experiences that I thought were unimaginable.

East Central is the perfect example of a community where people contribute as a family in order to make this school a success. My journey at East Central Community College has taught me a lot about life, and the importance of making the biggest impact while I can because time is so short.

I give all the glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for blessing me immensely and allowing me to experience East Central Community College! I will never be able to thank the EC Family for what they mean to me and the impact that they have had on my life. I just hope that I have somehow made a difference in someone else's life through my time here!

## FEATURED STUDENT

### Focus on the student: Mary Barker

BY LAYNE LEPARD

*Mary Barker is a freshman from Lawrence County High School in Monticello, Mississippi.*

**Q: What made you decide to come to East Central?**

A: I just wanted new surroundings.

**Q: What is your major?**

A: Criminal Justice.

**Q: Why did you choose this as your major?**

A: I have always wanted to work in some kind of law enforcement.

**Q: What was your biggest adjustment from high school to college?**

A: Learning how to save my money.

**Q: What activities are you involved in at East Central?**

A: I am on the Drama Team at the Baptist Student Union on campus.

**Q: What are your plans after East Central?**

A: I plan to go to Mississippi State and graduate with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

**Q: What is your favorite part about college?**

A: The new friends I have met.

**Q: Who is your favorite teacher? Why?**

A: Susan Fox-Smith, because she is a very helpful teacher and her classes are interesting.

**Q: What is your best memory at East Central thus far?**

A: Cheering on the warriors at the football games.

**Q: If you could change one thing about EC what would you change?**

A: I would add more parking spaces.

**Q: What were your activities throughout high school?**

A: Cheerleading and soccer.

## STRIKE A POSE

GAGE LEIFRIED • FRESHMAN • MERIDIAN  
LIBERAL ARTS WITH ENGINEERING CONCENTRATION

**Why did you choose to attend EC?**

I got the opportunity to play college soccer, and it offered an advanced pre-engineering curriculum.

**What is your favorite thing about EC?**

The people and the activities.

**What is your favorite meal in the Cafeteria?**

Fried Chicken.

**Who is your favorite faculty/staff member? why?**

Mrs. Denson, because she makes her class interesting.

**What is the worst thing about college life?**

So much to do... So little time...

**What is your most embarrassing moment at EC?**

When I sat down in a chair on stage at BSU and fell backwards off of the stage because the chair was not completely on the stage during worship.

**What is your best memory at EC?**

Painting up at the Co-Lin vs EC football game.

**What are your plans after EC?**

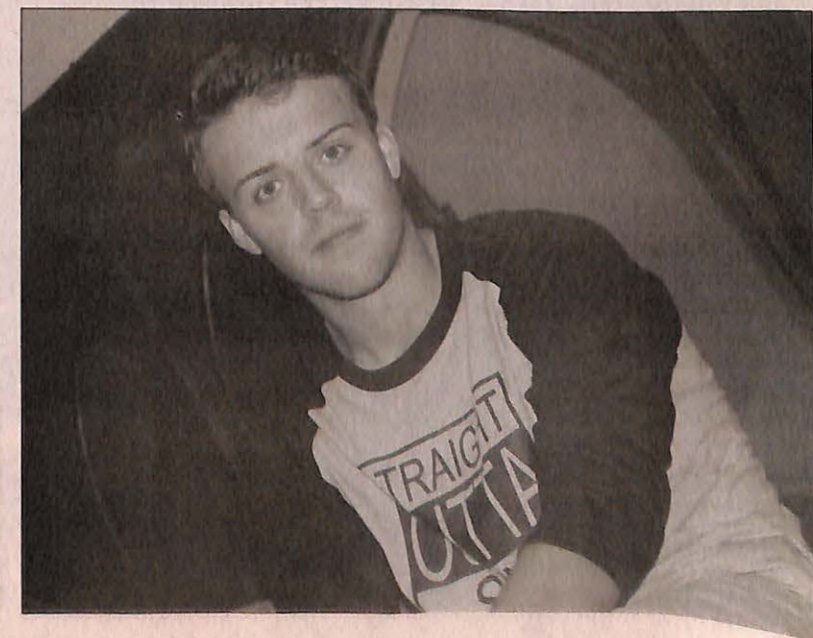
Transfer to MSU to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.

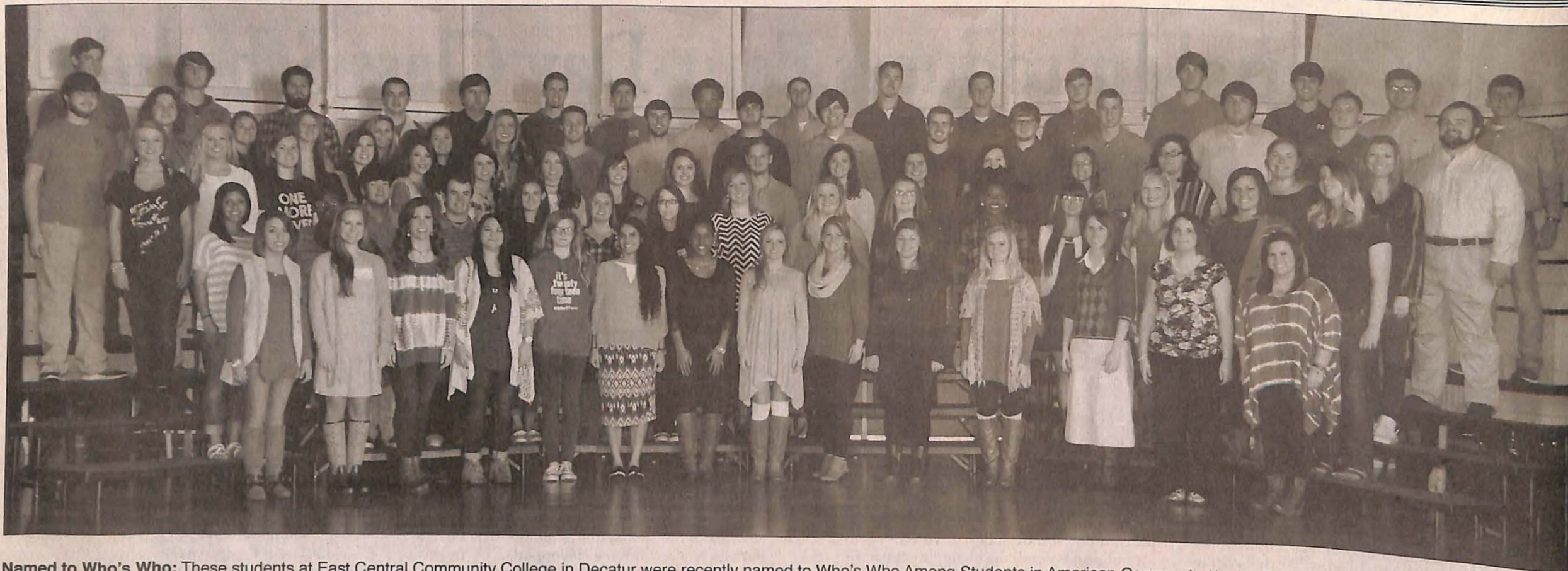
## OTHER VIEWS

### Twenty Ways To Make The Most of Your Four-Day School Week

CALEB WELCH

- 1.) Study hardcore!
- 2.) Learn to play ukulele
- 3.) Eat 5 cheeseburgers in one sitting
- 4.) Punch a shark in the nose
- 5.) Become an Olympian
- 6.) Write a letter to your local politician
- 7.) Watch a documentary on WWII
- 8.) Read War and Peace
- 9.) Win the lottery
- 10.) Read the Tom-Tom
- 11.) Start a lanyard collection
- 12.) Join a club and quit after 5 minutes
- 13.) Be AWESOME!
- 14.) Clean trash on the interstate
- 15.) Shake hands with the mayor of Meehan Jct.
- 16.) Read the entire Magic Treehouse series
- 17.) Petition to have Disney air Kim Possible again
- 18.) Wear a Christmas sweater. . . In MARCH!
- 19.) Never surrender
- 20.) Start your mornings by screaming WARRIOR PRIDE really loud so that all your dormmates can hear!





**Named to Who's Who:** These students at East Central Community College in Decatur were recently named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges for 2015. Students were nominated by faculty and staff and are chosen based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular clubs and organizations. Students and their respective hometowns include (first row, from left) Alisha Savell, Philadelphia; Brittney Rawson, Forest; Anna Claire Webb, Noxapater; Morgan Orr, Louisville; BriAnna Bout, Decatur; Nina LaBue, Conehatta; Rashada Boler, Philadelphia; Keri Ann Mayfield, Union; Kaylee Yates, Decatur; Hannah May, Little Rock; Fallon Beckham, Philadelphia; Rebecca Tero, Decatur; Brittany Bryan, Morton; and Layne Lepard, Philadelphia; (second row, from left) Megan Parrish, Pascagoula; Tatyana Johnson, Walnut Grove; Cole Duty, Louisville; Zack Hammons, Raleigh; Courtney Williams, Hickory; Bree Burnley, Kosciusko; Mary Levin, Philadelphia; Kara Yates, Morton; Madelon Taylor, ell, Lena; Skylar Davidson, Morton; Lalah McMullan, Decatur; Reagan Fleming and Joelle Hill, both of Louisville; Sydney Keith, Philadelphia; Kaley Bufkin and AnnaLea Clarke, both of Decatur; (third row, from left) Shelly Dow-Lake; William Mott and Louise Berryhill, both of Decatur; Clarissa Smith, Philadelphia; Lillian Shuler, Carthage; Brittany Rasco, Pascagoula; Brandi Kilpatrick, Union; and Kimberly Watkins and Macken'z Smith, Skinner, Philadelphia; Dylan Jones, Louisville; Stephen Stewart, Decatur; Evan Derrick, Morton; Caleb Terry, Newton; Anthony Emmons, Lake; Dylan Snypes, State Line; Jacob McNeil, Pineville; Devin ell, Lake; and Chris Yarbrough, Florence; and (back row, from left) Peyton Cain, Hickory; Durham Norman, Florence; D.K. Boydston, Louisville; John Hedrick, Newton; John Thames, Magee; Thomas Nazary and Taylor Nazary, both of Carthage; Michael Whitlock, Philadelphia; Kellen Clark, Chunky; Reed Fisher, Hickory; Mason Wooldridge, Collinsville; Jacob Huff, Puckett; Taylor Creighton, Stonewall; Reagan Warren, Conehatta; Michael Davis, Clinton; and Ben Pace, Philadelphia.

PHOTO CREDIT

## OTHER VIEWS

### REVIEW: *The Addams Family* has audience raving by the end

BY BRIANNA BOUT

That's the way when you're an Addams! A perfectly kooky rendition of Broadway's "The Addams Family Musical" was performed by EC Encore Players group last month. Directed by Mrs. Jessica Price, this musical invites us to a night with the Addams family that's filled up to the brim with humor, romance, music, and full-on *horror*. From the *Wednesday Addams* in a young woman, she has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a completely normal Ohioan who has asked for her hand in marriage.

The Beineke's are in for a night of weird when they're invited to a dinner with the Addams; but the arrangement is no less a horror for Gomez Addams as he's entrusted with Wednesday's secret engagement with Lucas and must keep his first secret from his wife, the gloomy Morticia. As the night goes on, tensions



formed by EC Encore Players group last month. Directed by Mrs. Jessica Price, this musical invites us to a night with the Addams family that's filled up to the brim with humor, romance, music, and full-disclosures! Now that Wednesday Addams is a young woman, she has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a completely normal Ohioan who has asked for her hand in marriage.

*The Beineke's are in for a night of weird when they're invited to a dinner with the Addams; but the arrangement is no less a horror for Gomez Addams as he's entrusted with Wednesday's secret engagement with Lucas and must keep his first secret from his wife, the gloomy Morticia. As the night goes on, tensions between the parents rise while Wednesday discovers just how much her Ohio fiancé has her pulled in a new direction!*

This amateur cast features Addams Family favorites such as the sadistic Wednesday Addams played by the lovable Rachel Clay, the electrifying Uncle Fester played by equally energetic Kirk Griffin, the zombie butler Lurch portrayed by the towering David Wilson, the kooky Grandma Addams played by the lovely Madelon Taylor, and the explosive Pugsley with a sizzling performance by Anastasia Crout.

The musical also introduces some-oddly normal-new characters such as the passionate Lucas Beineke with a zealous performance by Taylor Lott, the poetical Alice Beineke by the talented Lucy Kastla, the strict Mal Beineke with a superb performance by Gage Leifried. And topping off this all-star cast is the head of the spooky family themselves, Gomez and Morticia Addams, played by the dashing Evan Derrick and the enchanting Courtney Williams.

The play was a delightful two hours of humor and captivating music, with wonderful performances all around. The captivating stage design created by EC art students (Madelyn Ball, Blake Barnes, Shawna Bush, Jala Hobson, Kristie Kitchings, Mazi Sierra, Lauryn Tucker, Caleb Welch, Kayley Pennington, Michael Hackett, Josh Sanders and Kyle Hoskins) and Instructor Jeffrey Hodges set the scene of the creepy manor, leading our imaginations from the living-room, to the torturing chambers, to bedrooms, and the dining hall and, of course, the graveyard!

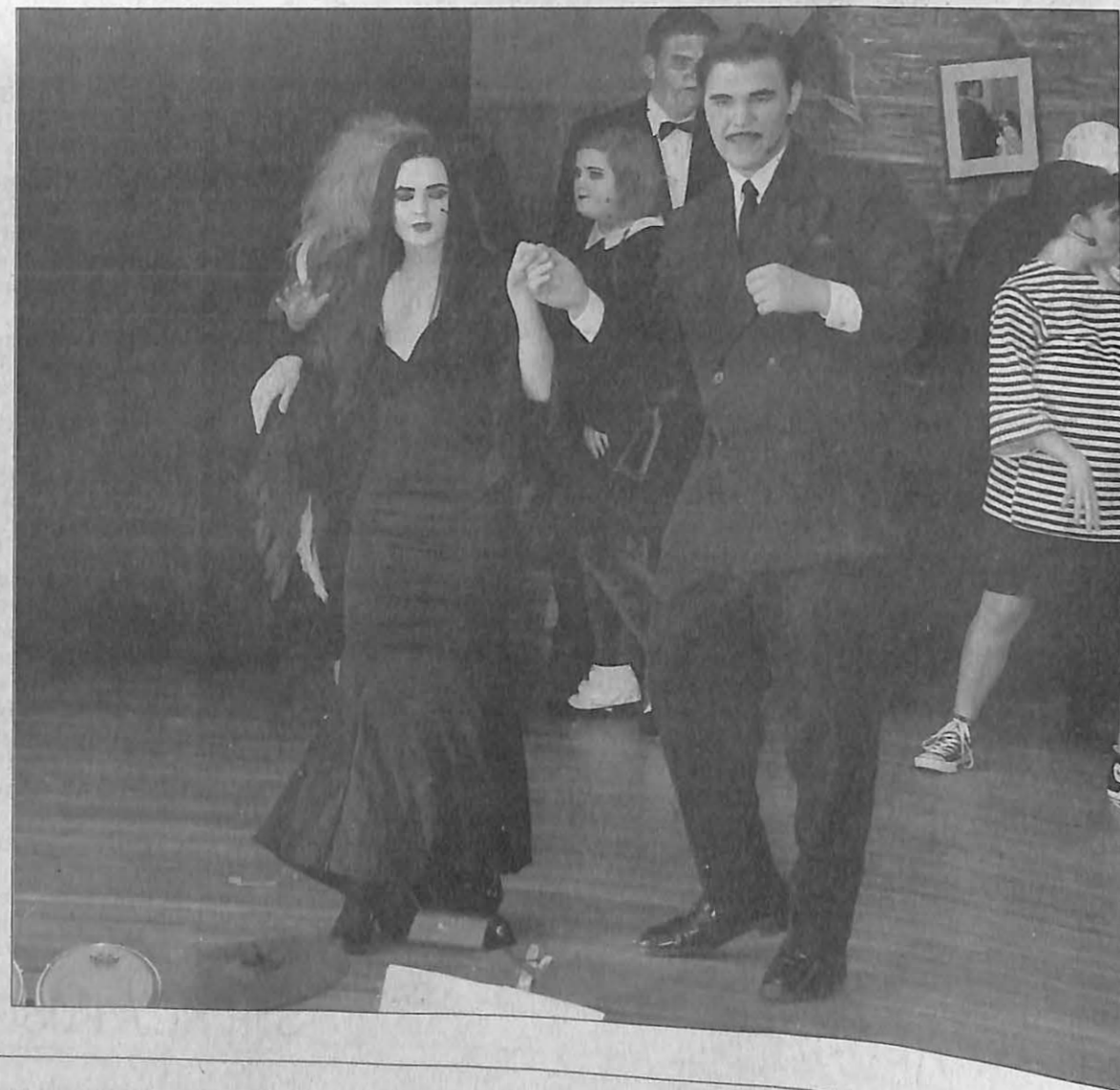
Along with the wonderful set design was fantastic choreography. There was a wonderfully entertaining scene with a heart tugging love song by Uncle Fester (Kirk Griffin) as he dances with his lady-love, the moon herself! The ancestors, featuring Jacob Willis, Zachary Barnett, Christopher Yarbrough, Sydney Battle, Kaelin Gentry, Kinsey Gentry, Addie Ambrosier, and Sarah Hall, who are backup vocalists and dancers, did a marvelous job of entertaining the audience with their individual costumes and stories told through their choreography.

With superb directing by Jessica Price, outstanding make-up design by Ed Girling, Addie Ambrosier and Director Jessica Price, excellent music performed by Justin Sharp (keyboard), Chas Evans (guitar), Ryan Clarke (bass), Ed Girling (drums) and Steve Moffet (woodwinds), and a job wonderfully well done from the members of the tech department such as Troy Gregory (lights), Adrianna Crout (lights and sound) and Alexandria Crout (stage manager), this was an entertaining musical that had many of the audience members raving at the pure talent of the cast and crew. Full Disclosure!

**REMINDER:**  
Wear IDs at all times!



**EC Encore Players Presents The Addams Family:** East Central Community College's Encore players presented their spring musical selection, "The Addams Family," at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, through Saturday, March 19, in the Vickers Fine Arts Auditorium on the Decatur campus. The event was held as part of East Central's 2015-16 Cultural Arts Series. The Cultural Arts Series began as a way to bring performing artists and visual artists to the campus throughout the year for both EC students and the community, according to Vicki Blaylock, ECCC Fine Arts Department chair. Cast members included: Evan Derrick, Courtney Williams, Kirk Griffin, Madelon Taylor, Rachel Clay, Anastasia Crout, David Wilson, Gage Leifried, Lucy Kastla, Taylor Lott, Jacob Willis, Zachary Barnett, Christopher Yarbrough, Sydney Battle, Kaelin Gentry, Kinsey Gentry, Addie Ambrosier and Sarah Hall.



## Thu Le represents Newton County in Mrs. Mississippi Pageant

Thu Le, wife of Terry Le, was selected to represent the title of Mrs. Newton County 2016 in the Mrs. Mississippi America Pageant, recently held in Corinth. Thu is currently a sophomore student at East Central Community College where she is pursuing a degree in nursing.

Thu has been married to her husband for three years. Terry is a University of Southern Mississippi alumnus and has worked as a chemist at a pharmaceutical company. Thu was a former college soccer player in 2002 where she received a two-year soccer scholarship to South Georgia State College.

Thu was selected to be the Historian for East Central Community College's Sigma Sigma Mu Tau medical club for 2015-16. She is currently a regis-

tered medical assistant with five-plus years working at Emory Healthcare and Georgia Clinic before moving to Mississippi to further her education and passion in medicine.

In 2014, she was recognized and awarded The Magnet recognition from the American Credentialing Center for her healthcare professionalism, teamwork and quality in patient care by Emory University Hospital and Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital. Her main hobbies include: playing the piano, photography, traveling and fantasy football.

The 2016 Mrs. Mississippi America Pageant, the Official State Preliminary to the Mrs. America Pageant, was held Feb. 26-28 in The Coliseum Civic Center in Corinth.





**PROMISES MADE.  
PROMISES KEPT.**

# PROMISES MADE. PROMISES KEPT.

In your search for the right place to continue your education, it's important to know who you can count on.

At MSU-Meridian, we take our promises to you very seriously. That's why we guarantee dedicated and inspiring faculty, a high return on your investment and a degree from one of the nation's leading universities that prepares you for today's competitive job market.

Promises made. Promises kept. And we promise there's more to come.

## WE RING TRUE™

#WERINGTRUE



MERIDIAN.MSSTATE.EDU



East Central Community College President Dr. Billy Stewart (left) and Mississippi University for Women President Dr. Jim Borsig sign an articulation agreement, which will allow East Central graduates to transfer a predetermined amount of career and technical credit towards a Bachelor of Technology degree at MUW.

## East Central, MUW Announce Partnership in Electrical Technology

Students completing the Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Technology at East Central Community College can soon continue their studies toward a bachelor's degree at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, thanks to a partnership announced Nov. 11 between the two schools.

The new Articulation Agreement, signed by ECCC President Dr. Billy W. Stewart and MUW President Dr. Jim Borsig during a ceremony on the Decatur campus, allows East Central graduates to transfer a predetermined amount of career and technical credit towards a Bachelor of Technology degree at MUW.

"The announcement of today's agreement between our college and MUW is another step in the fulfillment of our **2020 Vision** strategic plan and the institutional commitment of Teaching and Learning," said Stewart. "This partnership allows East Central to design and implement coherent, structured educational pathways leading to certificate and/or degree completion as well as stackable credentials that enhance students' opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility.

"Today's announcement also serves as an example of the cooperation and collegiality among the state's community colleges and four-year universities for the benefit of our students. They will be the major beneficiaries of today's announcement and that is the way it should be."

Dr. Borsig said, "One of our goals at MUW is to make it easy and seamless for community college students to transfer and complete their degrees. We are also in the workforce development business and are excited that we can help advance workforce education in Mississippi."

According to Dr. Scott Tollison, dean of the

East Central are always looking to provide opportunities for their graduates. We are thrilled that we are again partnering with such an amazing team, this time building pathways for Electrical Technology graduates."

Dr. Teresa Houston, ECCC vice president for instruction, added "Technical degrees have been perceived as terminal degrees for many students because of the inability to transfer technical credits. As we begin to look for ways to allow technical students to continue their education, agreements like this pave the way. East Central Community College is committed to preparing our students for the next level, and, if further education is the next level, we must establish clear pathways to foster that ability to do such. This is an exciting time for the students and faculty at East Central to collaborate and expand their educational and professional capabilities."

The idea behind the new agreement was spurred by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TA-ACCCT) grant, which ECCC was awarded in 2014. The \$2.5 million grant is helping provide workforce training opportunities in Winston County, including coursework in electrical technology offered at the Louisville Career Advancement Center.

Jordan Robinson, electrical technology TA-ACCCT grant instructor, said of the new partnership, "This program will make it convenient for all electrical technology students at East Central, including those at our Winston County facility, to pursue a bachelor's degree and enhance their job skills. I think this is a great opportunity for our students, and we look forward to working with MUW."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**ECCC PBL Students Take Top Honors:** Members of East Central Community College's Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda competed in 21 events during state competition and had winners in each category. Each of the 20 members participating placed first in at least one event and will attend the national competition this summer in Atlanta. Theta Chi was also recognized for largest chapter in membership, Gold Seal Recognition and Foundation Recognition. State award winners include (first row, from left) Alely Cruz of Philadelphia, first place, community service, and second place, management analysis and decision making; Alisha Savell of Philadelphia, first place, business ethics, and third place, desktop publishing; and Whitney Billings of Sebastopol, first place, business ethics, and third place, desktop publishing; (second row, from left) Jennifer Watkins of Decatur, first place, integrated marketing campaign, and second place, management analysis and decision making; Kimberly Watkins of Philadelphia, first place, small business management plan, and third place, economic analysis and decision making; Katie Hillman of Philadelphia, first place, business presentations, and third place, economic analysis and decision making; CrisAnn Bryan of Philadelphia, first place, business presentations, and first place, local decision making; Anna Claire Housely of Morton, first place, hospitality management, chapter annual business report; and Memry Thompson of Morton, first place, parliamentary procedure; (third row, from left) Paxton Holmes of Morton, first place, computer applications, and first place, integrated marketing campaign; and Morgan Jones of Pontotoc, first place, administrative technology, and first place, integrated marketing campaign; (fourth row, from left) Caleb Brown of Philadelphia, first place, parliamentary procedure, and third place, economic analysis and decision making; Morgan Cain of Carthage, first place, business presentations, and first place, entrepreneurship; and Khalil Triplett of Philadelphia, first place, community service project, and second place, financial concepts; and (fifth row, from left) Ben Pace of Philadelphia, first place, business ethics, and first place, parliamentary procedures; Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, first place, community service project, and first place, hospitality management; Lane Wooten of Carthage, first place, microeconomics, and fourth place, impromptu speaking; and Tyler Sistrunk of Union, first place, small business management. Not pictured are Cody Stevens of Philadelphia and Madelon Taylor of Louisville, who both received first place honors in parliamentary procedures. Stevens also received fourth place in personal finance and Taylor received second place in business communications. Caleb Brown, CrisAnn Bryan, Kimberly Watkins and Katie Hillman were also selected for Who's Who in PBL.

## HEADWAE Honorees Named at EC

Dr. Borsig said, "One of our goals at MUW is to make it easy and seamless for community college students to transfer and complete their degrees. We are also in the workforce development business and are excited that we can help advance workforce education in Mississippi."

According to Dr. Scott Tollison, dean of the MUW College of Business and Professional Studies, the goal of the program is to blend the skills learned in the technical field, the current theories of a chosen discipline, and the critical thinking of a liberal arts education together to develop well-rounded graduates ready for career advancement.

Tollison said "The faculty and leadership at

ACCCT grant instructor, said of the new partnership, "This program will make it convenient for all electrical technology students at East Central, including those at our Winston County facility, to pursue a bachelor's degree and enhance their job skills. I think this is a great opportunity for our students, and we look forward to working with MUW."

ECCC and MUW also have a transfer program for students enrolled in the East Central Culinary Arts Technology program, which began in 2014.

For more information on career and technical programs offered at ECCC, contact Wayne Eason, director of workforce education, at 601-635-6210. The email address is weason@ecc.edu.



Six members of Alpha Alpha Epsilon engineering club at East Central Community College were recently selected to participate in NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars program. Pictured are (from left) club sponsor and mathematics instructor Jenna Wright, Samuel Mitchell of Decatur, Kellen Clark of Chunky, John Creekmore of Noxapater, Aaron Scoggin of Lawrence, Lane Wooten of Carthage, Megan Parrish of Pascagoula and club sponsor and mathematics instructor Michael Miles.

## EC Students Participate in NASA Program

Six members of Alpha Alpha Epsilon engineering club at East Central Community College were recently selected to participate in NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

Those selected for the prestigious program at Stennis Space Center April 11-14, 2016, included Kellen Clark of Chunky, John Creekmore of Noxapater, Megan Parrish of Pascagoula and Aaron Scoggin of Lawrence.

Lane Wooten of Carthage was selected to attend the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., also held April 11-14. Samuel Mitchell

of Decatur will participate at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, May 22-25, 2016.

According to ECCC mathematics instructor and AAE sponsor Michael Miles, "This program gives students an authentic NASA experience that will encourage them to finish a two-year degree or transfer to a four-year university to pursue a NASA-related career."

To be considered for the program, students had to complete a multi-phase application process. The first phase included an application, letters of recommendation, submission of transcripts and a writ-

ten essay. Upon acceptance, students then participated in interactive web-based activities including online coursework and webinars.

Those successfully completing the second phase were then allowed to apply for the onsite experience and had to undergo a competitive selection process which was based in part on the online coursework and project papers submitted.

The ECCC students selected worked on a team project mentored by NASA engineers, attended briefings by engineers and scientist, toured NASA facilities, completed a rover competition and much more.

## HEADWAE Honorees Named at EC

Sophomore Ben Pace of Philadelphia and mathematics instructor Jenna Wright of Madden represented East Central Community College at the 2015-16 Higher Education Appreciation Day: Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program held Tuesday, Feb. 2, in Jackson.

The annual HEADWAE observance was established by the Mississippi Legislature to honor academically talented students and faculty members from each of the 36 public and private member institutions of the Mississippi Association of Colleges.

Pace is a pre-dental major and a graduate of Neshoba Central High School. A Dean's List scholar, he was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities and was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team.

He serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa and the Presidents Council, co-president of Warrior Corps, and is a member of the Concert Choir, Phi Beta Lambda, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau and Students Against Destructive Decisions. He



PACE

is a former member of the Wall O' Sound Band and Ac'cents Show Choir.

He is the son of Derek and Patty Pace of Philadelphia.

Wright has been employed at the college since 2012.

She earned the bachelor's degree in math education at Troy University and completed a master's in statistics at Mississippi State University.

She is a former graduate teaching assistant at Mississippi State.

She and her husband, Eric, reside in Madden. Honorees were invited to the State Capitol where they were welcomed by Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves and recognized in each legislative chamber.

A luncheon was also held at the Jackson Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson, during which each student and faculty honoree was recognized in front of their guests, institution leaders, corporate sponsors and legislators.

In addition to the public recognition, a booklet was published featuring photos and biographical sketches of each honoree.



WRIGHT

## EC, Newton Co. Choirs Perform 'The Messiah'

BY COURTNEY WILLIAMS

East Central Community College and Newton County High School Choirs joined forces in December to present a spectacular Christmas program entitled, The Messiah.

The program featured an orchestra and contained several pieces from Handel's classic piece of music. Songs from the night included "Comfort Ye," featuring ECCC sophomore and music major Darryl Rogers as a soloist, "And the Glory of the Lord," "Thus Saith The Lord," "And He Shall Purify," "Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive," "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion," "The People That Walked in Darkness," "For Unto Us A Child Is Born," "There Were Shepherd's Abiding In The Field," "And Lo! The Angel of The Lord Came Upon Them," "And The Angel Said Unto Them," "And Suddenly There Was With The Angel," "Glory to God," "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion," and of course, the ever popular "Hallelujah Chorus!"

Other soloists from the evening include Tadarin Foster, a Hickory native and 2013 gradu-

ate of East Central, Polly Vaughn, a native of Decatur and 2012 graduate of East Central, and Olivia Vaughn, a senior at Mississippi School of the Arts and former Newton County High School choir member.

The concert was directed by Vicki Blaylock, East Central Community College choir director and Suzanne Cain, Newton County High School choir director.

## Creative Writing Class to Host Coffeehouse May 4th

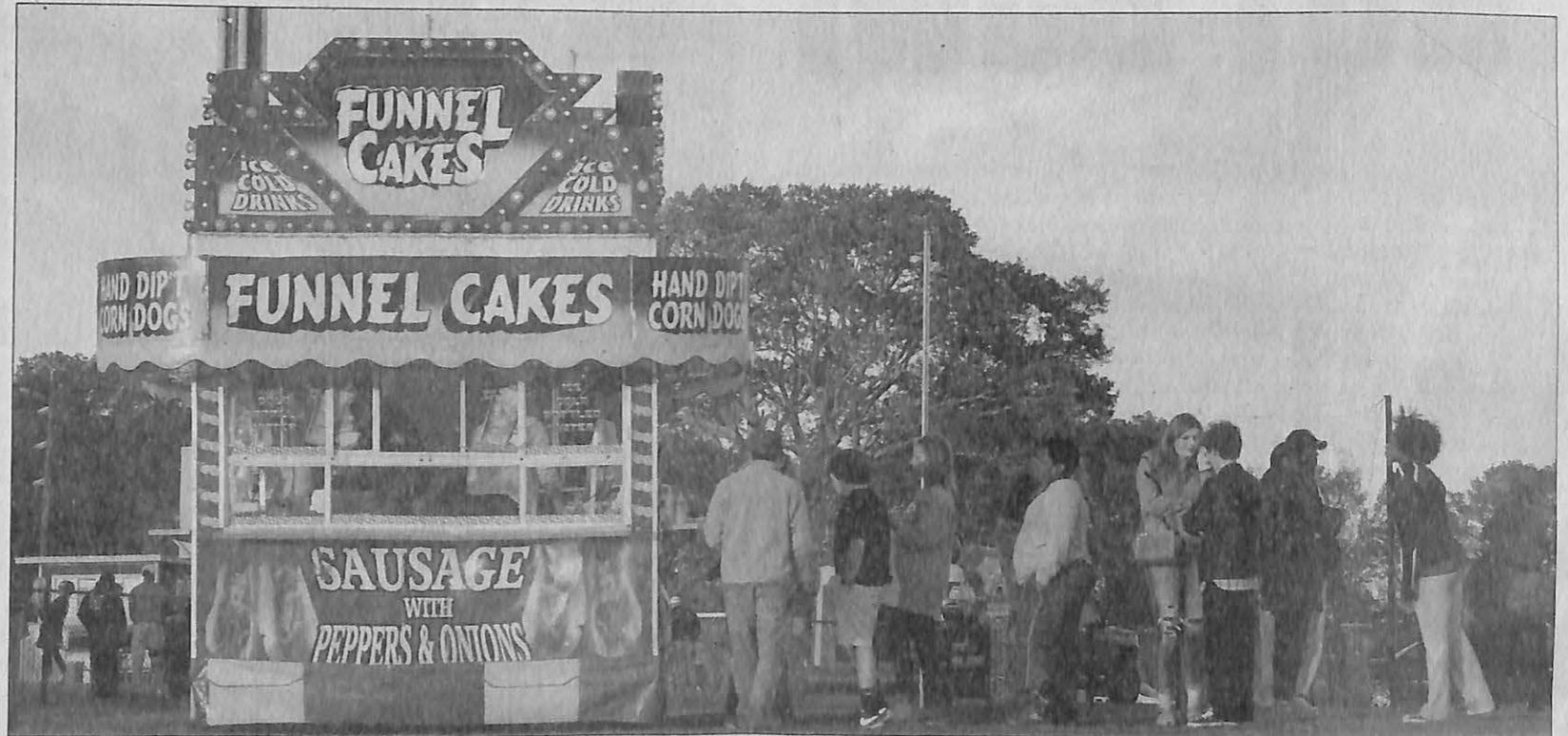
On May 4, 2016, Carol Shackelford's Creative Writing Class will host an open coffeehouse for the public. During this time, students will read selected pieces that they have penned throughout the semester, followed by refreshments and socializing.

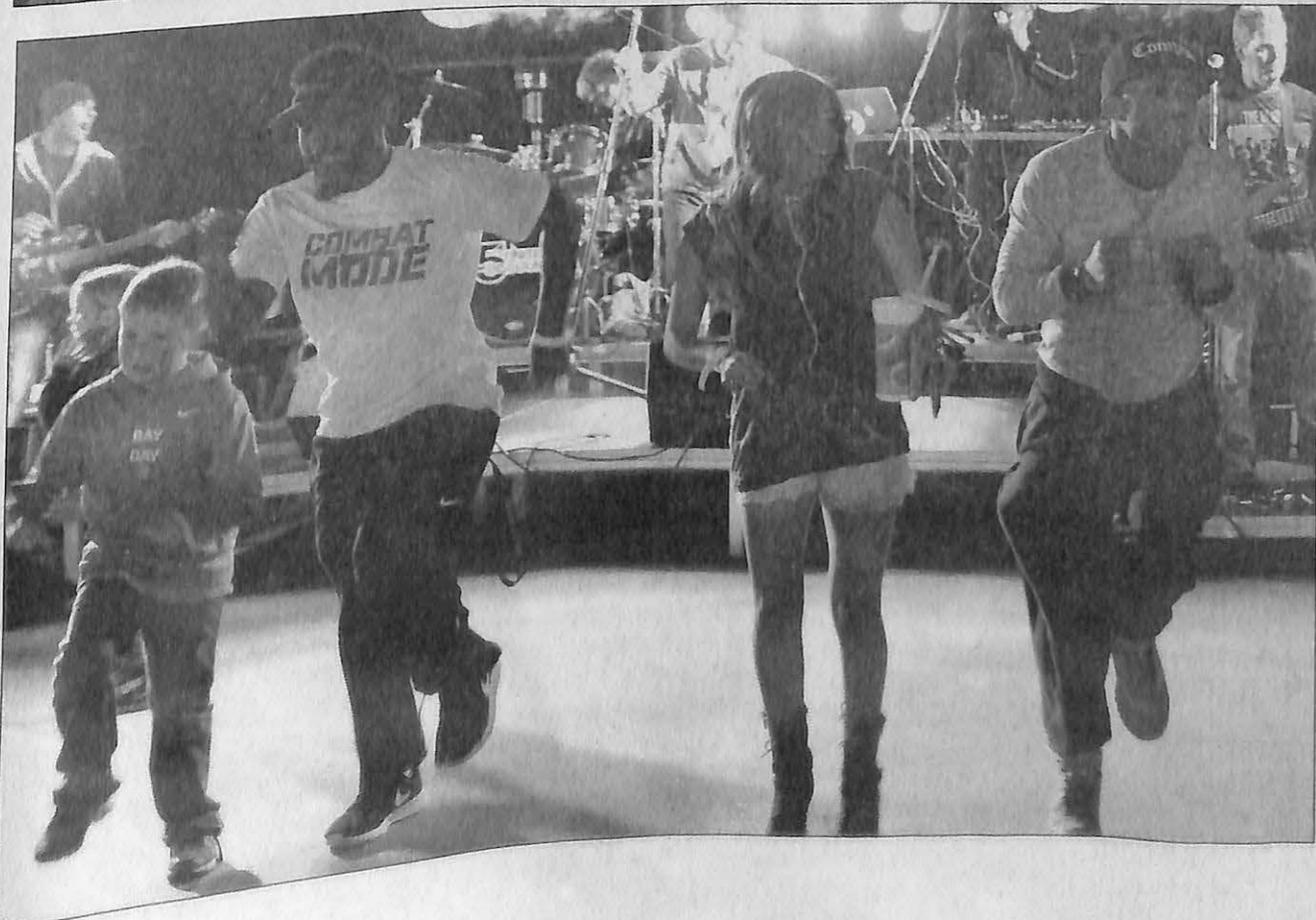
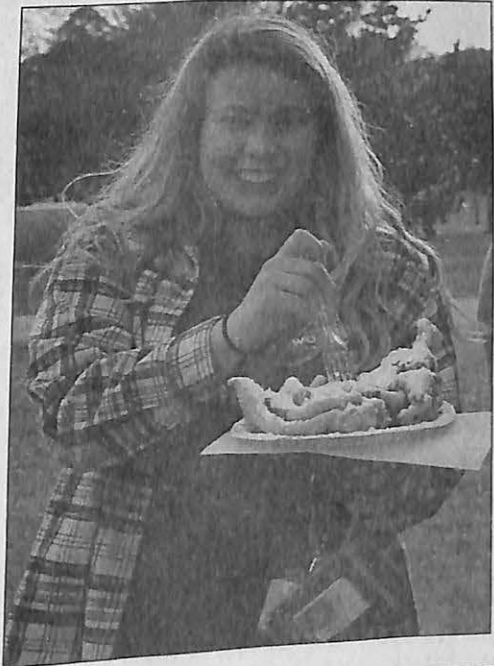
The coffeehouse will take place at 6 p.m. in Thrash Auditorium, located in Newton Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.





# WARRIOR FEST





# Warrior Athletics

## Warriors win 2015 HOT Bowl

The No. 15 East Central Community College Warriors turned three first quarter turnovers into points to build an early lead and set the pace in a 35-21 victory Dec. 5 over the No. 20 Kilgore College Rangers in the 2015 C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl.

Sophomore safety Jaylon Lofton played a big part in the first two scores. The Forest High School product stopped Kilgore's first drive of the game with an interception in the end zone. The Warrior offense took over from there and marched 80 yards in 13 plays, with freshman running back Tredarian Gamble giving East Central a 7-0 lead on a 5-yard scoring run.

Two plays later, on Kilgore's second offensive possession, Lofton picked up a Ranger fumble and rambled 15 yards to the end zone. With 6:15 remaining in the first quarter, East Central led 14-0.

On its ensuing possession, Kilgore again drove deep into Warrior territory to the three-yard line before losing another fumble. This one was scooped up by Warrior safety Austin Balthazor who raced 90 yards down the left sideline for East Central's third touchdown of the first quarter. Austin Garrett's third point after made the score 21-0.

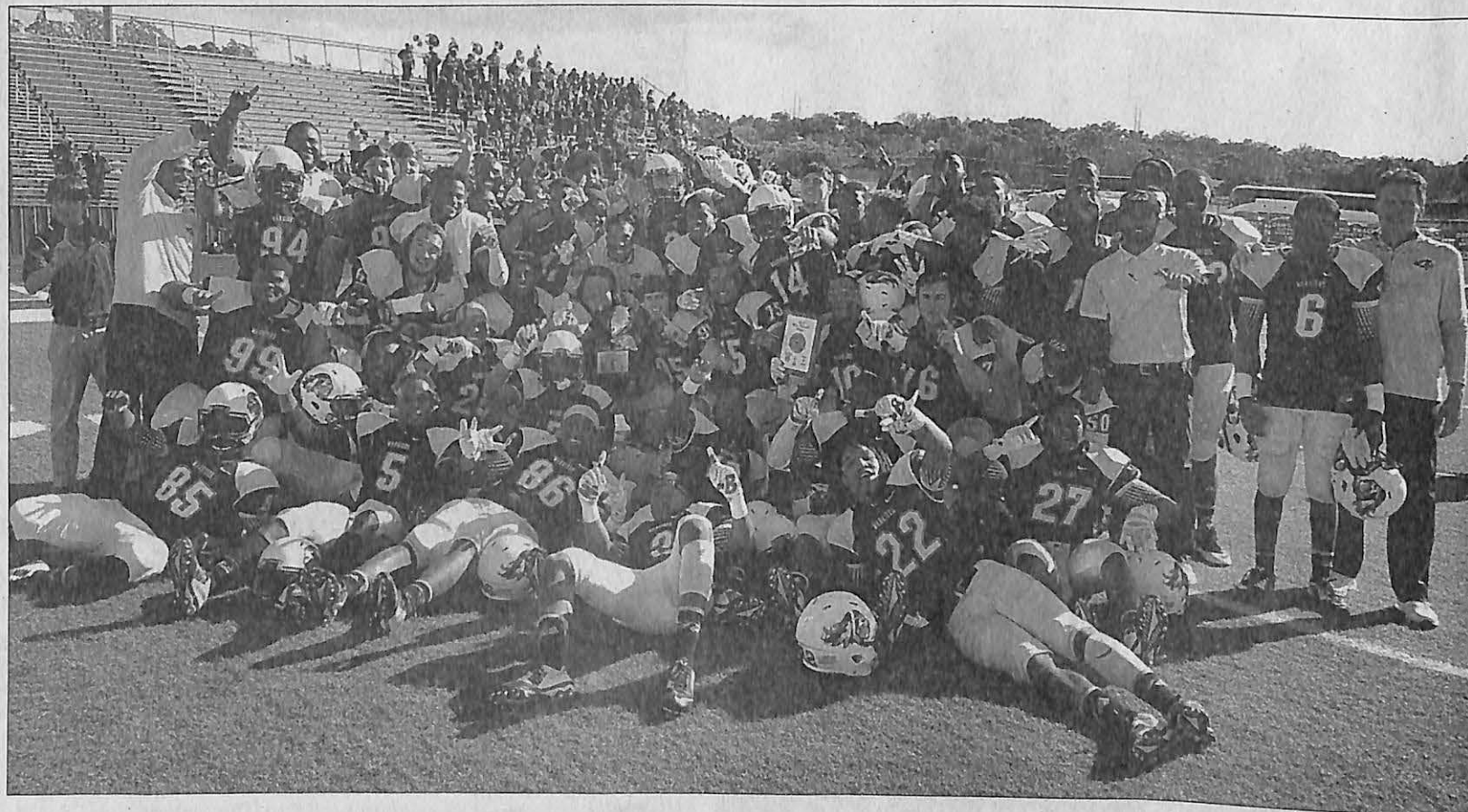
Balthazor was named the game's Most Valuable Player. He also had six tackles to go with the fumble return for a touchdown.

The Rangers finally got on the scoreboard with 4:12 remaining in the first half on a 32-yard scamper by Martinez Syria. East Central took a 21-7 lead into the locker room.

The two teams would combine for 28 points in the third quarter. East Central took just four plays to score to open the second

The drive began with a 44-yard pass from Hosket to Henri Murphy to the Rangers' 12-yard line.

Kilgore closed the gap to 28-14 on a 20-yard toss from quarterback Josh Bolfig to tight end Jarod Wood on a second and goal



play with 6:34 left in the third.

East Central answered with a 38-yard strike from Hosket to wide receiver Kabion Ento, who went high above two Kilgore defenders to pull the ball down for the score and the 35-14 lead.

Bolfig would connect with Wood again on the Rangers next drive from nine-yards out to finish the third quarter scoring and pull Kilgore to within 35-21.

Neither team was able to score in the fourth quarter.

Hosket finished with 150 yards passing and two touchdowns. Gamble finished with 127 yards rushing and one touchdown. Murphy had four catches for 68 yards. Freshman defensive back Isiah Thomas also had an interception for the Warriors. The HOT Bowl was East Central's first bowl game since 1996, and only the fourth bowl game since the Warriors began playing football in 1928. Only 14 community college football teams in the nation were invited to bowl games this year.

The C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl was founded in 2001 by Dr. Jack Welch and a group of local businessmen looking for a way to help others while stimulating the local economy. The day features a bowl game between two top ranked community college teams and a second game against top ranked NCAA Division II teams.

The Heart of Texas Bowl is sponsored by C.H.A.M.P.S., Communities Helping Americans Mature Progress and Succeed, a school-based program aimed at educating students about the dangers of the abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol.

## Warriors Finish Season Ranked No. 10 in Nation

Following its victory in the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl, the East Central Community College Warrior football team was ranked No. 10 in the final National Junior College Athletic Association Top 20 Football Poll for the 2015 season.

East Central capped off its best season in 16 years with a 35-21 win over No. 20 Kilgore College in the HOT Bowl Saturday, Dec. 5, in Copperas Cove, Texas. East Central entered the game ranked No. 15.

The Warriors finished the 2015 season with an 8-3 record, the best won-loss record since 1999. All three of the losses came to teams ranked in the top 10 in the final 2015 NJCAA Top 20 Poll.

"I am very excited for our players, staff and football program in being selected in the top 10 to finish the season," said third-year Head Coach Ken Karcher. "This is an honor for our college, our fans, and our community."

The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state and national champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.

half scoring. Quarterback Jesse Hosket found wide receiver Devin McIntosh in the corner of the Rangers' end zone from 15 yards out to stretch the Warriors lead to 28-7.

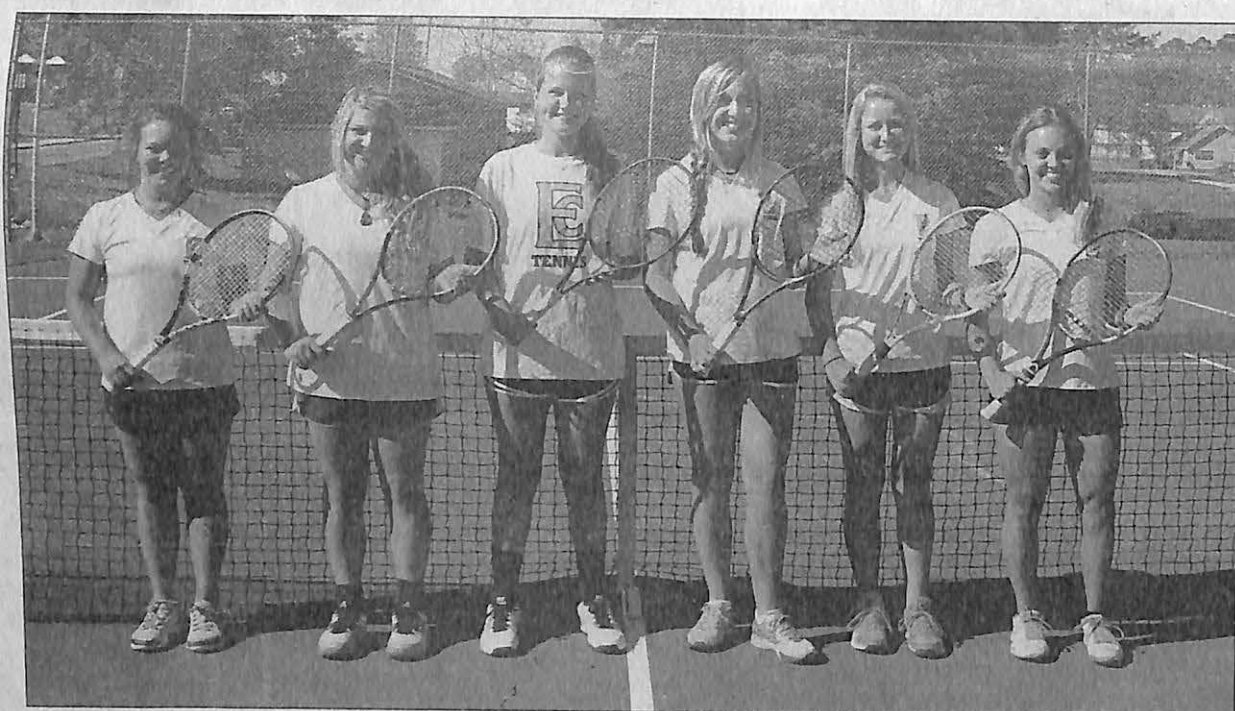
The drive began with a 44-yard pass from Hosket to Henri Murphy to the Rangers' 12-yard line.

Kilgore closed the gap to 28-14 on a 20-yard toss from quarterback Josh Bolfig to tight end Jarod Wood on a second and goal

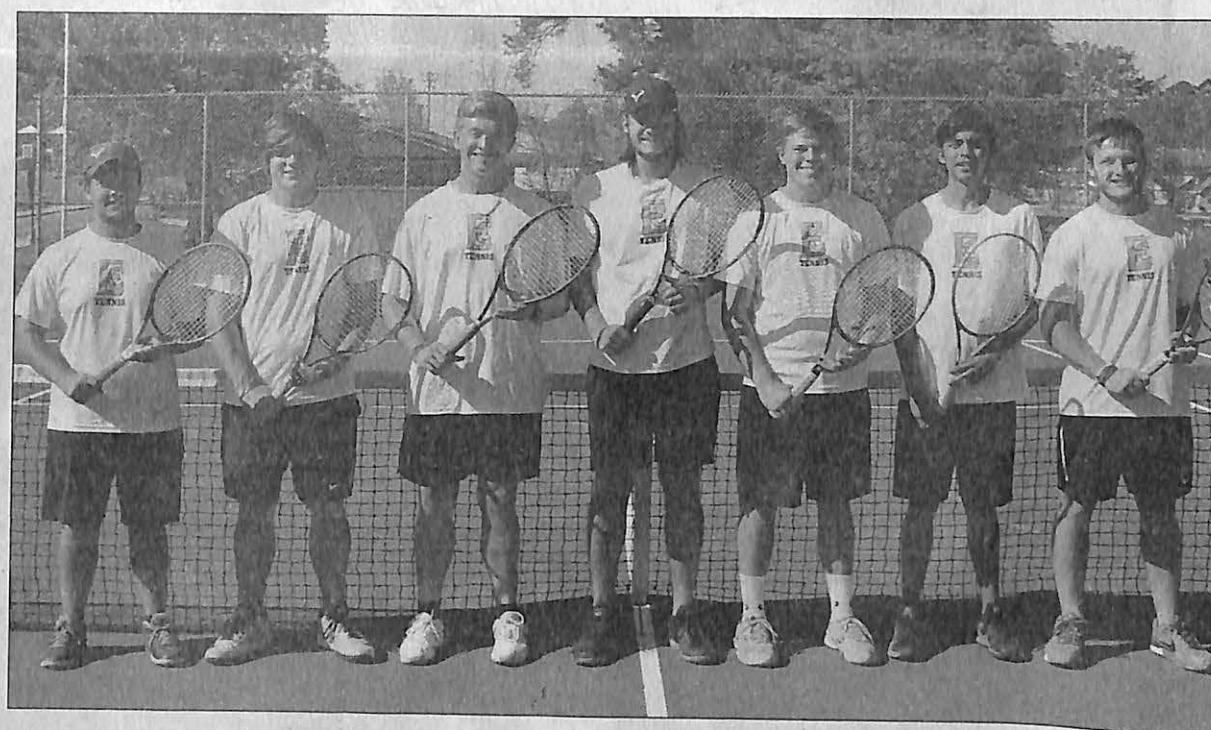
play to help others while stimulating the local economy. The day features a bowl game between two top ranked community college teams and a second game against top ranked NCAA Division II teams.

The Heart of Texas Bowl is sponsored by C.H.A.M.P.S., Communities Helping Americans Mature Progress and Succeed, a school-based program aimed at educating students about the dangers of the abuse of illicit drugs and alcohol.

The Warriors advanced to the semifinals of the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges state playoffs, before losing to eventual state and national champion Northwest Mississippi Community College 27-20 on Oct. 31 in Senatobia. It was the Warriors first appearance in the state playoffs since 2001.



**Lady Warrior Tennis:** The members of the ECCC women's tennis team for spring 2016 are (from left) Emily Dykeman, Hannah Payne, Andi McCrimon, Brooke Payne, Samantha McCrimon, and Chaney Mills. The Lady Warriors, who finished their regular season April 15 with an 8-8 record, played in the MACJC State/NJCAA Region 23 tournaments April 20-23 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston.



**Warrior Tennis:** The members of the ECCC men's tennis team for spring 2016 are (from left) Cole Duty, Alex Chapman, Graham Murphree; Will Stewart, Brandon Rogers, John Jimenez, and Devin Skinner. The Warriors, who finished their regular season April 15 with a 7-9 record, played in the MACJC State/NJCAA Region 23 tournaments April 20-23 at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston.



**Lady Warriors Honored:** Several members of the East Central Community College women's soccer team were honored for their accomplishments during the 2015 season at the college's Fall Sports Awards Banquet. Pictured (first row, from left) are sophomore midfielder Gabby Stapp of West Harrison High School in Gulfport, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-Star Team; sophomore defender Pashien Kelley-Johnson of West Harrison High School, Academic Award, MACJC First Team All-State, and MACJC All-Star Team; sophomore forward Tamia Cavett of Murrah High School in Jackson, MACJC First Team All-State; freshman forward Presley McLemore of Brandon High School, Golden Boot Award; and sophomore midfielder Megan Yarbrough of Center Hill High School in Olive Branch, MACJC Second Team All-State; (back row, from left) freshman goalkeeper Toni Lowe of Gautier High School, Most Improved Player Award; sophomore midfielder Megan Parrish of Pascagoula High School, Academic Award, Hustle Award, Team Captain Award, and MACJC Second Team All-State; sophomore forward Carrissa Stevenson of Harrison Central High School in Gulfport, Academic Award; sophomore defender Brittany Rasco of Pascagoula High School, Best Defensive Player Award and MACJC First Team All-State; sophomore midfielder Allie Turner of Horn Lake High School, Warrior Award and MACJC All-Star Team; freshman defender Erin Golden of Petal High School, MACJC Second Team All-State; freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth of West Lauderdale High School in Collinsville, Team Most Valuable Player Award and National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23; and freshman defender Gabby Gross Lewisburg High School in Olive Branch, NJCAA All-Region 23.

# Warrior Athletics

## State Basketball Champions

### Lady Warriors Win First State Title Since 2004

The East Central Community College Lady Warrior basketball team won its first Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Championship in a dozen years Feb. 25, 2016, with a 75-63 win over the Itawamba Community College Lady Indians at the Davis Event Center on Itawamba's campus in Fulton.

It was East Central's first women's basketball state championship since the 2003-04 season and sixth overall in program history.

"God deserves all the credit," said Head Coach Crandal Porter. "This is a great sophomore group and such a close knit group. This league is very tough, but every challenge that you put up against this team, they are always up for the challenge. South Division Champs and now State Champs."

East Central and Itawamba entered the championship game as the top two seeds in the tournament. East Central was the No. 1 seed from the South Division and Itawamba was the No. 1 seed from the North Division.

The game seesawed back and forth in the first quarter after

Itawamba took an early 4-0 lead. A three-pointer by East Central's Kalybriah Haskin with 9:00 to go in the second period gave the Lady Warriors a 21-18 lead that they would never give up.

East Central led 38-35 at the half. The Lady Warriors controlled the final period leading

See TITLE, Page 12

### Porter Named B'ball Coach of the Year

East Central Community College head women's basketball coach Crandal Porter, in his fourth season with the Lady Warriors, was named the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Women's Coach of the Year for the 2015-16 season.

Porter's Lady Warriors completed the season with both the MACJC South Division title

See PORTER, Page 12



Basketball State Champs: The East Central Community College Lady Warriors are the 2016 MACJC State Basketball Champions.

PHOTO BY JUCOWEEKLY.ORG

## Five East Central Basketball Players Receive MACJC All-State Honors

Four East Central Lady Warriors and one Warrior

ond Team. He averaged 14.5 points per game. He

MACJC All-State Team. A sopho-

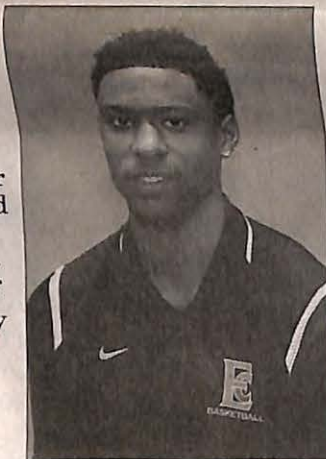
of Olympian

She also

# FIVE East Central Basketball Players Receive MACJC All-State Honors

Four East Central Community College Lady Warriors and one Warrior were named to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State basketball teams announced Monday, March 7, 2016.

Sophomore guard/forward Prince McDaniel out of Pascagoula High School was named to the MACJC Men's All-State South Division Sec-



MCDANIEL

ond Team. McDaniel averaged a team-high of 14.9 points per game. He also averaged 4.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.2 steals per game.

East Central's men's basketball team ended the season 13-10 overall and 8-6 in the conference.

For the Lady Warriors, Samantha Duncan out of Oak Grove High School and Alexia McDonald out of Petal High School were named to the



DUNCAN

MACJC Women's All-State South Division First Team.

A sophomore guard, Duncan averaged 15.9 points per game. She also had 3.6 assists and 4.2 rebounds per game.

Sophomore guard McDonald averaged team-highs of 16.2 points and 2.7 steals per game. She also had 7.8 rebounds per game for the season.

Sophomore guard Kalybriah Haskin



MCDONALD

of Olympian (Chula Vista, Calif.) High School and sophomore guard Miracle Rushing of Meridian High School were named to the MACJC Women's South Division Second Team.

Haskin averaged 12 points per game. She also had 1.7 steals, 1.7 assists and 1.4 rebounds per game.

Rushing had a team-high for rebounds bringing down 9.5 per game.



HASKIN

She also averaged 2 steals and 11.8 points per game.

The Lady Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 24-3 and 15-1 in the conference.

The strong performances of these Lady Warriors helped East Central's women's basketball team clinch the MACJC South Division title and MACJC State Championship.



RUSHING

## East Central Warrior Baseball Players Sign to Play at 4-Year Colleges in the Fall

Five East Central Community College Diamond Warriors inked National Letters of Intent during the November signing period to continue their baseball careers next fall at four-year colleges and universities.

Peyton Cain, a right-handed pitcher from Newton County High School, signed with the University of Tennessee at Martin in Martin, Tenn.; Michael Davis, a catcher from Clinton High School, signed with Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark.; Matt Mitchell, a left-handed pitcher and outfielder from Lake High School, signed with Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss.; Dylan Snypes, a shortstop from Wayne County High School, signed with Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla.; and Channing Wall, a pitcher from Louisville High School, signed with the University of North Alabama in Florence, Ala.

UT Martin and Oral Roberts are NCAA Division I schools. Southern Arkansas, Delta State, and North Alabama are NCAA Division II.

"All five of these young men are going to make significant impacts for us this upcoming season," said ECCC Head Baseball Coach Neal Holliman. "They have all made good decisions in deciding where to go after leaving East Central. We feel it's more important to find the right fit for each individual player rather than the biggest institution, and we believe all of these young men understand this philosophy and

used careful thought and consideration to make the best decision for them and their futures."

Cain pitched 21.2 innings over 12 games last season for East Central. "Peyton still has room to grow and will be a major factor for us on the mound this year," noted Holliman.

"He came to us out of high school as a strike thrower and has continually increased his velocity, while developing a sinker. All aspects of his game have continued to improve as he matures as a pitcher, and we expect him to be in the starting rotation this upcoming spring."

Davis batted .323 with 20 RBIs in 40 games played for the Warriors last season. He was fourth on the team in hits with 40. He committed only four errors in 276 chances behind the plate.

"Michael played almost every day for us last year as a catcher which is very difficult to do in this league," said Holliman. "He is a tremendous competitor, who is extremely quick behind the plate. Michael is a good enough athlete that he will see some time in the outfield this season to allow his body to rest from the grueling days behind the plate."

Mitchell pitched 23 innings in nine games, including three starts last season. He also played 18 games in the outfield, batting .316 with eight RBI.

"Matt continues to develop in all phases of the game," said Holliman. "He is one of the best individuals and competitors



**Sign With Universities:** East Central Community College baseball standouts signing National Letters of Intent to play at four-year colleges and universities are, from left, Peyton Cain, a pitcher from Newton County High School, University of Tennessee at Martin; Michael Davis, a catcher from Clinton High School, Southern Arkansas University; Matt Mitchell, a pitcher and outfielder from Lake High School, Delta State University; Dylan Snypes, an infielder from Wayne County High School, Oral Roberts University; and Channing Wall, a pitcher from Louisville High School, University of North Alabama.

See BASEBALL, Page 12

# Warrior Athletics



**Soccer Team Members Honored:** Several members of the East Central Community College men's soccer team were honored for their accomplishments during the 2015 season at the college's Fall Sports Awards Banquet. Pictured (first row, from left) are sophomore defender Jamar Simms of Pascagoula High School, Permanent Team Captain Award; sophomore defender Kellen Clark of Newton County High School in Decatur, Academic Award, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Honorable Mention All-State, and Warrior Award; freshman midfielder Devon Pitts of George County High School in Lucedale, MACJC All-State, and MACJC All-Star Team; and sophomore forward Jacob Johnson of Destrehan (La.) High School, Golden Boot Award, National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23, and MACJC All-Star Team; (back row, from left) freshman defender Gage Leifried of Southeast Lauderdale High School in Meridian, Hustle Award; sophomore defender Carlos Gutierrez of Mooreville High School, MACJC Honorable Mention All-State; freshman midfielder Fredy Gutierrez of Pontotoc High School, MACJC All-State; and sophomore defender Durham Norman of Florence High School, Academic Award, Best Defensive Player Award, MACJC All-Star Team, and MACJC All-State.

## Golf Team Finishes Fourth in MACJC Championship

The East Central golf team finished fourth in the 2015-16 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Championship played April 16-17 at the Shiloh Ridge Gold Club in Corinth.

Chris Clark's team shot a 38-over par 614 over the two-day, 36-hole event. The fourth place finish also qualified the Warriors to play in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Golf Tournament played April 25-26 at Back Acres Country Club in Senatobia.

East Central's Zack Hammons of Raleigh High School finished tied for 10th at the state championship after shooting a five-over par 149.

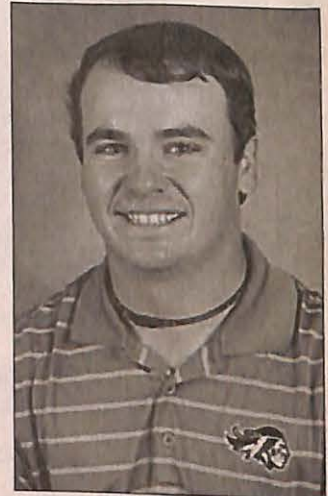
Hammons also was named MACJC First Team All-State for his season scoring average of 72.86.

For the 2015-16 academic year, MACJC golf tournaments were played in both the fall and the spring.

In the fall, the Warriors finished second at the fourth event held at Grand Bear Golf Club in Saucier. East Central also had two third place and a fourth place finish. In the spring, the Warriors finished fifth and fourth in MACJC events.

In October 2015, the team was ranked as high as No. 5 in the nation in the NJCAA Men's Golf Division II poll.

The Warriors also were ranked No. 7 in the nation among all NJCAA Division II programs in a Golfstat Relative Rankings compiled by golfstat.com.



HAMMONS

## Men's Basketball Falls Just Short of Postseason Play

The East Central men's basketball team ended its 2015-16 season with an overall record of 13-10 and 8-6 in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division.

The Warriors' season ended after falling to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears in overtime at home in Bracken-Wood Gym in the final regular season game, which was also Sophomore Night. The Warriors needed a win to advance to the state tournament.

The Warriors ran off five straight victories at one point late in the season to move into a tie for first place in the MACJC South Division with Jones County, but lost four of their next six games. East Central finished fifth in the MACJC South Division.

Sophomore forward/guard Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula High School was awarded postseason honors by being named to the MACJC Men's All-State South Division Second Team. McDaniel averaged a team high of 14.9 points. He also had 4.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.2 steals per game.

Both Ravion Henry of Leake Central High School and Mc-

## PORTER

From Page 11

and MACJC State Championship, finishing 24-3 overall and 15-1 in the conference.

Porter helped lead his Lady Warriors to a 19-game winning streak.

His overall record at East Central is now 50-35.

Porter previously served as girls' and boys' head basketball coach at Newton High School from 2001-12. He led the girls' squad to state Class 2A state titles in 2005 and 2010. His Tiger squad captured the state Class 2A championship in 2008.

He began his successful career at his alma mater Louisville High School, where he served as boys' head basketball coach in 2000-01.

Porter compiled an overall



The East Central men's basketball team ended its 2015-16 season with an overall record of 13-10 and 8-6 in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges South Division under third-year head coach Robert Thompson and assistant coach Devarus Walker.

The Warriors' season ended after falling to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears in overtime at home in Bracken-Wood Gym in the final regular season game, which was also Sophomore Night. The Warriors needed a win to advance to the state tournament.

The Warriors ran off five straight victories at one point late in the season to move into a tie for first place in the MACJC South Division with Jones County, but lost four of their next six games. East Central finished fifth in the MACJC South Division.

Sophomore forward/guard Prince McDaniel of Pascagoula High School was awarded postseason honors by being named to the MACJC Men's All-State South Division Second Team. McDaniel averaged a team high of 14.9 points. He also had 4.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists, and 1.2 steals per game.

Both Ravion Henry of Leake Central High School and McDaniel were selected to represent ECCC in the MACJC All-Star Game held at East Central April 15. Henry scored 11 points in that game and McDaniel had eight.

## Lady Warrior Duncan Named Honorable Mention All-America

Lady Warrior basketball player Samantha Duncan, a sophomore guard out of Oak Grove High School, was named to the 2015-16 Honorable Mention All-America Team by the National Junior College Athletic Association for her play this past season.

Duncan averaged 15.9 points per game. She also had 3.6 assists and 4.2 rebounds per game.

This was the Hattiesburg native's fourth post-season award after having also been named Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges First Team All-State, NJCAA All-Region 23 Tournament Team, and All-Region 23 Team.

The Lady Warriors finished their season with an overall record of 24-3 and 15-1 in the conference. East Central won both the MACJC State and South Division titles.



DUNCAN

## Men's Soccer Just Misses Playoffs

The East Central Community College men's soccer team needed a win in the final game of the season to advance to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State Tournament, but lost a heartbreaking 1-0 decision to Holmes Community College. The Warriors ended their season with a 6-10-1 record.

The team was led by Head Coach Kenneth Thompson, who was in his 17th season.

The Warriors shutout Northwest Mississippi Community College 2-0 and Itawamba Community College 1-0 to set up the season ending showdown with Holmes for the right to advance to the first round of the MACJC state playoffs. The Warriors finished third in the MACJC North Division.

Several soccer Warriors received postseason honors. Freshman midfielder Devon Pitts of George County High School was named MACJC All-State; sophomore midfielder Omar Gutierrez of Mooreville High School, MACJC All-State and MACJC All-Star Team; sophomore forward Jacob Johnson of Destrehan (La.) High School, NJCAA All-Region 23 and MACJC All-Star Team; freshman midfielder Fredy Gutierrez of Pontotoc High School, MACJC All-State; and Durham Norman of Florence High School, MACJC All-Star Team and MACJC All-State.

Porter helped lead his Lady Warriors to a 19-game winning streak.

His overall record at East Central is now 60-38.

Porter previously served as girls' and boys' head basketball coach at Newton High School from 2001-12. He led the girls' squad to state Class 2A state titles in 2005 and 2010. His Tiger squad captured the state Class 2A championship in 2008.

He began his successful career at his alma mater Louisville High School, where he served as boys' head basketball coach in 2000-01.

Porter compiled an overall 494-216 high school coaching record, which also included seven division championships, three South State titles and eight tournament appearances.

Other honors he has received during his coaching career include The Meridian Star's Boys Coach of the Year in 2000, MAC Class 2A Girls' Coach of the Year in 2005, Mississippi All-Star Girls' Coach in 2005, Mississippi All-Star Boys' Coach in 2009 and MAC Girls' Coach of the Year in 2010. He was also selected Newton's Citizen of the Year in 2005.

Porter received a Bachelor of Science degree in health, physical education, recreation, and dance from Mississippi Valley State University in 1998 and earned a Master of Educational Leadership from Mississippi State University in 2010.

## TITLE From Page 11

by as many as 14 at one point before the final score of 75-63.

The three-point shooting of sophomore guard Samantha Duncan kept the Lady Warriors in the game through the first two periods. Duncan had 18 points. Sophomore Johnta' Hughes scored all 12 of her points in the second half. Alexia McDonald tied Duncan for game-high with 20 points. Miracle Rushing had another big night with 14 rebounds to go with 16 points and six assists.

East Central improved its season record to 24-2 with the win over the Lady Indians. Itawamba fell to 20-6.

East Central advanced to the championship game with a 72-68 win over East Mississippi Community College and a 65-61 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College.



**ECCC Football Players Honored at Fall Sports Awards Banquet:** Members of the East Central Community College football team who made Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-State or National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 following the 2015 season were honored at the college's Fall Sports Awards Banquet. Pictured (first row, from left) are sophomore safety Austin Balthazor of Seminary High School, Second Team All-State Defense; sophomore wide receiver Kabion Ento of Dollarway High School in Pine Bluff, Ark., All-Region 23 and First Team All-State Offense; sophomore defensive lineman Derek Mahaffey of Oxford High School (Ala.), All-Region 23 and First Team All-State Defense; and sophomore linebacker Eric McPherson of Jim Hill High School in Jackson, First Team All-State Defense; (back row, from left) sophomore offensive lineman Hunter Soileau of Forrest County Agricultural High School in Brooklyn, Second Team All-State Offense; sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp Academy, First Team All-State Offense; sophomore tight end Jordan Thomas of Sumrall High School, Second Team All-State Offense; and sophomore offensive lineman Eddie Houston of Newton High School, Second Team All-State Offense.

## BASEBALL From Page 11

we have ever had in our program. He provides a lot of versatility as a player in the fact he can play two of the three outfield positions, hits from the left side of the plate, and is a quality left-handed arm off the mound."

Snyper played in 38 games for East Central last season, batting .275 with four doubles and 11 RBI. "Dylan has tremendous upside as a player and still has his best years ahead of him," commented Holliman. "He is one of the best, if not the best, shortstop in our league when you take into account the whole package. He is good runner, left-handed hitter, and possesses a true shortstop arm."

Wall pitched in 13 games last season with a 2-2 record. He recorded 20 strikeouts in 27.2 innings. "Channing has really come into his own this fall and found his role on the back end of the game," said Holliman. "He has continually developed his fast ball command and made tremendous improvement with his slider. We are looking for Channing to be a valuable asset to this year's team."

## Lady Warrior Soccer Team Advances to State Semifinals

The ECCC women's soccer team had one of its best seasons since the program's inception in 2005, posting an 11-4-2 overall record.

For the first time, the team advanced to the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges/National Junior College Athletic Association Region 23 Tournament semifinals.

The Lady Warriors, under the direction of Head Coach Gray Massey, lost a heartbreaking 2-1 double overtime match to Pearl River in the semifinals played on Tom Shepherd Field on the campus of Hinds Community College.

Sophomore forward Tamia Cavett, a product of Murrah High School, scored a first half goal to give East Central a 1-0 lead heading into the locker room. Pearl River tied the match with about 20 minutes left, and then netted the game-winner in the second overtime. Pearl River went on to win the tournament.

The Lady Warriors defeated Meridian Community College 2-0 in the first round of the state playoffs in a game played at Bailey Stadium on the ECCC campus.

Massey's team began the season with a school-record eight straight victories.

The 10 East Central soccer sophomores won 23 games over two seasons, the most by any sophomore class in program history.

Freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Knuth of West Lauderdale High School was twice named MACJC Goalkeeper of the Week and also was NJCAA National Division I Women's Soccer Goalie of the Week. Knuth and Gabby Gross of Lewisburg High School were named to the NJCAA All-Region 23 Team.

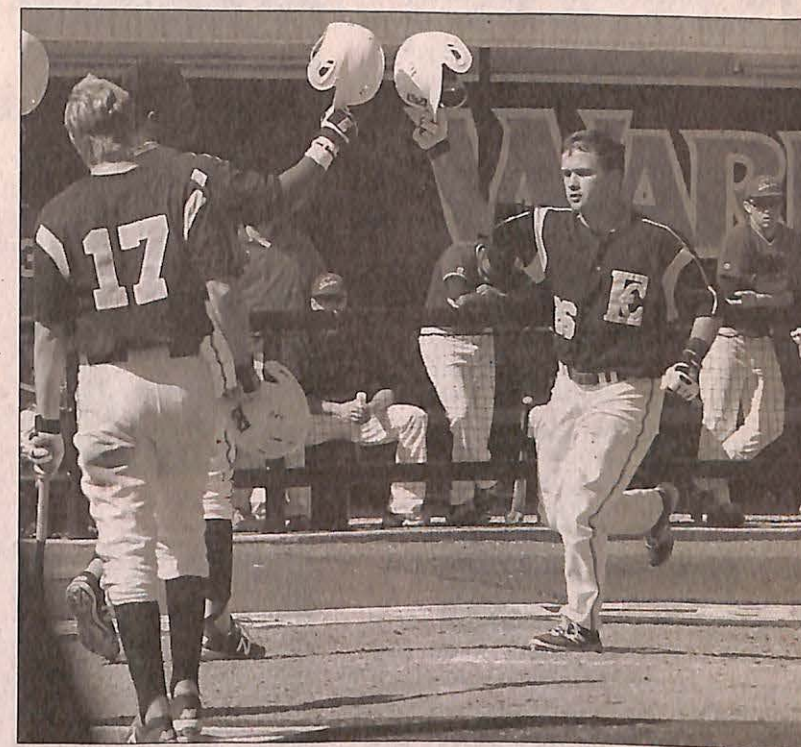
Cavett, Pashien Kelley-Johnson of West Harrison High School, and Brittany Rasco of Pascagoula High School were all named MACJC First Team All-State.



# Warrior Athletics



**Sophomores Honored:** The sophomore members of the ECCC softball team were honored April 16 after the final home games of the regular season against Baton Rouge. Shown (from left to right) are Head Coach Kristin Chaney, Maegen Ellis, Cayla Myers, Katlyn Duke, Chloe Thaggard, Lacey Hill, Summer Lavender, Caitlyn Aldous, Mahalia Gibson, Andi Hannaford, and Assistant Coach Courtney Nunn.



Nathan Roseberry, a freshman outfielder out of Purvis High School, is congratulated after hitting a three-run home run against South-eastern Community College of Iowa.

## No. 5 EC Softball Finishes 3rd in MACJC Play

Coming off a second place finish at last year's National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Softball National Championship Tournament, the ECCC Lady Diamond Warrior softball team is back in the MACJC playoffs this season looking to return to the national tournament.

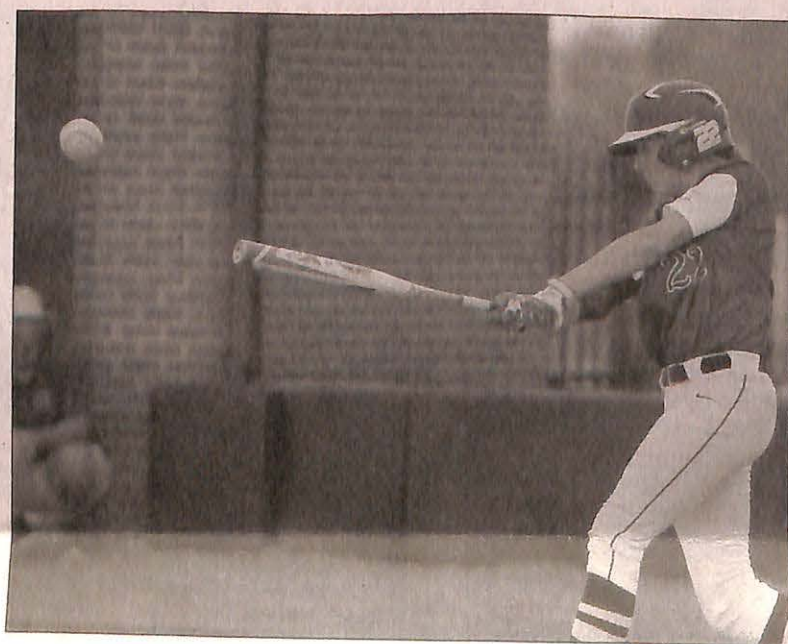
Under the direction of fourth-year Head Coach Kristin Chaney, the Lady Diamond Warriors were 40-7 overall and 22-6 in MACJC play as this issue of *The Tom-Tom* went to press. East Central finished tied for third in the 15-team MACJC standings and hosted Copiah-Lincoln Community College in the first round of the state playoffs April 22-23 at the Softball Park in Decatur.

The MACJC no longer has South and North division play. All 15 teams played a doubleheader against each other, with the top eight advancing to the playoffs for four, best-of-three series. Those four winners advanced to the state tournament.

The East Central softball team, coming off one its best seasons in program history, was ranked No. 5 in the NJCAA Division II Softball Poll as of April 18.

The 2015 Lady Diamond Warriors finished 48-14 and runner-up in the 16-team, double elimination NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship Tournament, the highest-ever finish for the college's softball program. The team also finished second in the MACJC State Tournament and the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament. Eleven of the team's 14 losses last season came to teams ranked in the top 20 of the final NJCAA poll.

Leading this year's team offensively is Mahalia Gibson out of Oak Grove High School. A first team All-America last season,



Lady Diamond Warrior Katlyn Duke out of Neshoba Central High School connects for a hit against Hinds Community College.

doubles with 124.

In the circle, sophomore Lacey Hill out of Kilbourne (La.)

## No. 15 Diamond Warriors Poised for State Playoffs

The East Central Diamond Warriors baseball team was poised to make the 2016 MACJC state playoffs as this edition of *The Tom-Tom* went to press.

Led by Head Coach Neal Holliman, East Central was 27-15 on the season. The Diamond Warriors were 15-9 in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges conference play, good enough for fifth place. The top eight teams make the playoffs, with the top four hosting first-round series at home.

During the week of April 18, East Central moved into the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Baseball Poll to No. 15.

East Central advanced to the MACJC state playoffs last season, but lost a best two-out-of-three series at Meridian.

The Warriors regular season ended April 27 at home against Southwest. The playoffs were slated to begin May 6-7 at host team sites.

Among the leaders for East Central on the season are freshman Cole Prestegard of Huntsville, Ala., who is batting .359 and leads the team with six home runs and is tied for the team lead with 28 RBI. Sophomore Dylan Snypes out of Wayne County High School also has 28 RBI and four home runs. Snypes leads the team in doubles with 11, while Prestegard has 10.

On the mound, sophomore Peyton Criss...

The 2015 Lady Diamond Warriors finished 48-14 and runner-up in the 16-team, double elimination NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship Tournament, the highest-ever finish for the college's softball program. The team also finished second in the MACJC State Tournament and the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament. Eleven of the team's 14 losses last season came to teams ranked in the top 20 of the final NJCAA poll.

Leading this year's team offensively is Mahalia Gibson out of Oak Grove High School. A first team All-America last season, Gibson is batting .435 with 17 home runs and 65 RBI.

As a team, the Lady Diamond Warriors lead the nation in

Lady Diamond Warrior Katlyn Duke out of Neshoba Central High School connects for a hit against Hinds Community College.

doubles with 124.

In the circle, sophomore Lacey Hill out of Kilbourne (La.) High School is 19-5, with 129 strikeouts in 138 innings pitched. Sophomore Chloe Thaggard, a product of Leake Academy, is 20-2 on the season.

Among the leaders for East Central on the season are freshman Cole Prestegard of Huntsville, Ala., who is batting .359 and leads the team with six home runs and is tied for the team lead with 28 RBI. Sophomore Dylan Snypes out of Wayne County High School also has 28 RBI and four home runs. Snypes leads the team in doubles with 11, while Prestegard has 10.

On the mound, sophomore Peyton Cain out of Newton County High School is 7-1 in nine starts, freshman Luke Yancey out of East Rankin Academy is 4-1 in 10 starts, and freshman Taylor Creighton out of Quitman High School is 4-1 in six starts.

## Lady Diamond Warriors Lavender, Gibson Win NJCAA, MACJC Awards

East Central Community College Lady Diamond Warrior softball players won both the MACJC state and NJCAA national player of the week awards in back-to-back weeks in February.

Left fielder Summer Lavender out of Canton Academy was the NJCAA Division II National Softball Player of the Week and MACJC Softball Player of the Week for Feb. 8-14.

Lavender hit .611 for the week. She went 11 for 18 at the plate with a home run, two triples, four doubles, four singles, and four walks. She also drove in 10 runs, scored 11 runs, and had one stolen base in the six games.

Sophomore second baseman Mahalia Gibson,



LAVENDER

a product of Oak Grove High School, won both awards for the week of Feb. 15-21.

Gibson batted .451 and hit four home runs to help East Central to a 4-1 record that week. For the week, Gibson was 7-for-17 at the plate with 10 RBI and eight runs scored.

She also pitched for the Lady Diamond Warriors and picked up the win against Bishop State Community College out of Mobile, Ala., in the Meridian Rush Invitational. Gibson gave up five hits and struck out seven batters in a 12-4 win.

As this issue of *The Tom-Tom* went to press, the Lady Diamond Warriors were 40-7 overall and 22-6 in MACJC conference action.



GIBSON

## EC Football Players Sign With 4-Year Schools

Fourteen East Central Community College football players signed National Letters of Intent on National Signing Day Feb. 3 to continue their careers at four-year colleges and universities.

Derek Mahaffey, Devin McIntosh, and Jordan Thomas all signed Feb. 3 in the Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the ECCC campus.

Mahaffey, a 6-2, 292 defensive lineman from Oxford (Ala.) High School, signed with the University of Tennessee Chattanooga; McIntosh, a 6-2, 189 wide receiver from Amory High School, signed with the University of West Alabama; and Jordan Thomas, a 6-6, 278 tight end from Sumrall High School, signed with Mississippi State University.

Additional ECCC players who signed with four-year colleges and universities Feb. 3 included:

- Austin Balthazor (5-11, 183, safety, Seminary High School) – Northwestern State University
- Aubrey Bourn (6-0, 230, linebacker, Hattiesburg High School) – Livingstone College
- Kabion Ento (6-3, 175, wide receiver, Dol-

larway High School, Pine Bluff, Ark.) – University of Colorado

- Jesse Hosket (6-4, 210, quarterback, French Camp Academy) – Southeastern Missouri State University

- Eddie Houston (6-1, 280, offensive lineman, Newton High School) – Nicholls State University

- Jaylon Lofton (6-2, 172, defensive back, Forest High School) – University of Central Arkansas

- Jerry Magee (5-11, 220, defensive lineman, Collins High School) – University of Arkansas Monticello

- Eric McPherson (5-11, 221, linebacker, Jim Hill High School, Jackson) – Arkansas Tech University

- Lucas Morgan (6-3, 239, tight end, Morton High School) – Northwestern State University

- Micah Parten (6-0, 295, offensive lineman, Northwest Rankin High School) – University of Central Arkansas

- Devontae Wilson (5-10, 179, defensive back, Warren Central High School) – Delta State University



**ECCC Football Players Receive Team Awards at Fall Sports Awards Banquet:** Several members of the East Central Community College football team were honored for their accomplishments during the 2015 season at the college's Fall Sports Awards Banquet. Pictured (first row, from left) are sophomore safety Austin Balthazor of Seminary High School, Defensive Captain Award; sophomore offensive lineman Micah Parten of Northwest Rankin High School in Flowood, Offensive Captain Award; and defensive lineman Jerry Magee of Collins High School, Most Improved Defensive Player Award; (back row, from left), sophomore quarterback Jesse Hosket of French Camp Academy, Luke 2:52 Award and Academic Award; sophomore tight end Jordan Thomas of Sumrall High School, Most Improved Offensive Player Award; and sophomore offensive lineman Eddie Houston of Newton High School, Academic Award.

## ECCC Warrior Cheerleaders Named for 2016-17

East Central Community College recently announced members of its 2016-17 Cheerleading Squad following tryouts held on the Decatur campus.

Cheerleaders for the 2016-17 academic year and their respective high schools include sophomores Nathan Burns, Aerial Green and Landin Hutchison, all of Leake Cen-

tral; sophomores Cole Hodgins and Ashton Killen, both of Neshoba Central; freshmen Kaitlyn Decker, Kirbi Hurst, Jacob Mott, Mallory Myers and sophomore Codi Ballard, all of Newton County; sophomore Kaitlyn Evans of East Rankin Academy; freshman Kayla Rawson of Kosciusko; sophomore Keshun Wells of Moss Point; sophomore Matthew

Morea of McLaurin; sophomore Joshua Parkman of Lake, and freshman Kristen Kennedy of Union.

Pauline Karcher serves as cheerleader sponsor.

For more information, contact Karcher by e-mail at [pkarcher@eccc.edu](mailto:pkarcher@eccc.edu) or by calling the college's Athletic Department at 601-635-6310.

## ECCC Students Named to PTK Academic Team

East Central Community College sophomores Ben Pace of Philadelphia and Anthony Emmons of Lake were named to the 2016 All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team.

The All-Mississippi Community College Academic Team recognizes scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of students enrolled in the state's two-year colleges.

Pace, a pre-dental major, was one of 15 students named to the First Team. He received a \$1,000 scholarship.

His honors include selection as HEADWAE Student of the Year and Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges.

He serves as president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, president of the President's Council, co-president of Warrior Corps, and is a member of Concert Choir, Theta Chi Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, Sigma Sigma Mu Tau, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the Baptist Student Union.

Pace is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and the son of Derek and Patty Pace.

Emmons, a liberal arts major, was one of 42 students named to the Second Team.

He was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Community/Junior Colleges.

He serves as vice president of Theta Xi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, treasurer of Warrior Corps, French horn section leader for the Wall O' Sound Marching Band, tenor section leader for the Concert Choir, and is a member of the Pep Band, EC Encore Players, *Wo-He-Lo* yearbook staff and Student Education Association.

Emmons is a graduate of Lake High School and the son of Tim and Kathy Emmons.

They were honored along with other outstanding community and junior college students from across the state during an event in Jackson.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, State Sen. Terry Burton, vice chairman of the Universities and Colleges Committee; Dr. Andrea Mayfield, executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board; and Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society executive director, served as distinguished speakers at the recognition luncheon.

Both honorees received medallions, certificates, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board.



PACE



EMMONS

## STRIKE A POSE

TAYLOR BONE  
SOPHOMORE • CARTHAGE  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION

**Why did you choose to attend EC?**

Close to home, and they have a good curriculum for my major.

**What is your favorite thing about EC?**

The people.

**What is your favorite meal in the Cafeteria?**

Fried chicken Thursday.

**Who is your favorite faculty/staff member?**

Why?

Mrs. Lee, because she is very sincere about what she teaches.

**What is the worst thing about college life?**

All the homework.

**What is your most embarrassing moment at EC?**

Falling down the bleachers in front of everyone at the H.O.T. Bowl in Texas.

**What is your best memory at EC?**



Meeting all of my new friends.

**What are your plans after EC?**

Work at an elementary school as a kindergarten teacher.

## ECCC Drafting and Design Tech Program Receives \$25,000 Grant

The Drafting and Design Technology Program at East Central Community College was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

The grant, applied for by instructor Chris Ryals, is awarded to those promoting surveying and professional licensure and was based on "the college's need for equipment and the merit of the education that was being provided for the students."

According to Ryals, East Central was the only college with a Land Surveying Technology Program to receive the grant.

Ryals said, "Based on the needs and the amount of funding available, I requested that the college purchase a new Robotic Total Station to meet MDOT equipment standards,

a new Survey-Grade Global Positioning Unit capable of centimeter accuracy, additional necessary survey equipment such as Tripods and Prism Rods to replace aging equipment, hand-held radios for across campus communication between survey parties and a new Data Collector capable of operating the GPS and Total Station.

"These purchases will enable the surveying program at East Central to not only grow in numbers with new pieces of equipment, but we will maintain technological standards and be capable of teaching the latest methods of surveying to our students."

For more information on the college's Drafting and Design Technology program, contact the Workforce Education Division at 601-635-6210 or email weason@eccc.edu.

## SkillsUSA Participants Win State Honors

During the 2015-16 Mississippi SkillsUSA Competition, East Central Community College students captured top awards in 15 areas of competition. All first place winners advance to the

SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville, Ky., this summer.

Award winners included Jason Forrest of Decatur, first place in technical drafting; Alan Graham of Forest, first place in industrial motor controls; Ryan Hill of Forest, first place in heating, ventilation and air conditioning; and Enoc Reynoso of Carthage, first place in restaurant service.

Josh Crutcher of Sebastopol, second place in cabinetmaking; Cody Hollingsworth of Lake,

second place in plumbing; Ben McDaniel of Philadelphia, second place in carpentry; and Jordan Prisock of Louisville, second place in automotive refinishing.

Lauren Copeland of Walnut Grove, third place in architectural drafting; Eric Gunn of Forest, third place in electrical construction wiring; Amber Jamerson of Tupelo, third place in job interview; Samuel Kelly of Union, third place in CNC Turning.

George Brown of Duck Hill, third place in collision repair; Bay White of Sturgis, third place in CNC Milling; and Hagen French of Lake, and Jay Riser, Tyler Sullivan and Trace Wade, all of Forest, third place in team works.

## OTHER VIEWS

### PTK: A Year of Service, Ben Pace

Being the president of the Theta Xi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa here on the campus of East Central Community College has been an extreme honor. I was truly blessed to work with the individuals who showed great leadership and hard work throughout the year. My fellow officers, advisors, members and I have worked extremely hard to make the 2015-2016 Theta Xi Chapter have a vital role on the campus.

Through Phi Theta Kappa, our chapter has had the opportunity to do many projects on and off campus to better the world in which we live.

For example, our chapter made an active shooter video explaining the realness of the threat of an active shooter here on our campus. The video involved real active shooter scenarios and provided solutions on what to do in a crisis. It is our hope as a chapter that the video will impact future and current students as well as save lives in the process.

Throughout the year our chapter has participated in many ways to better our school and our community. For example, we have had the opportunity to do a canned food drive, highway trash pickup, clothing drive, cleaning supplies drive, and various blood drives. These activities have had a big influence in the lives of our chapter members and officers, as well as mine.

Phi Theta Kappa has opened my eyes to the opportunities of leadership and service which are two very important aspects of our world today!

Honor Society executive director, served as distinguished speakers at the recognition luncheon.

Both honorees received medallions, certificates, and printed resolutions from the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives.

The All-Mississippi Academic Team program is coordinated by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board.

## CAREER CENTER

The Career Center provides the support that ECCC students need to be successful in choosing a career path, job and internship opportunities, and transferring to a four-year college or university.

### SERVICES

- Career assessments to help students with career choices
- Assistance with choosing a major or program of study
- University transfer information, and assisting with applications and scholarship opportunities
- Resume writing and interview tips
- Information on area job openings

### HOURS

Monday – Thursday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### LOCATION

2nd floor of the Eddie M. Smith Student Union Building in the Student Services Offices

### CONTACT

Romonica Evans  
Career Center Director/Recruiter  
601-635-6300

According to Ryals, East Central was the only college with a Land Surveying Technology Program to receive the grant.

Ryals said, "Based on the needs and the amount of funding available, I requested that the college purchase a new Robotic Total Station to meet MDOT equipment standards,

equipment, and maintain technological standards and be capable of teaching the latest methods of surveying to our students."

For more information on the college's Drafting and Design Technology program, contact the Workforce Education Division at 601-635-6210 or email weason@eccc.edu.

Throughout the year our chapter has participated in many ways to better our school and our community. For example, we have had the opportunity to do a canned food drive, highway trash pickup, clothing drive, cleaning supplies drive, and various blood drives. These activities have had a big influence in the lives of our chapter members and officers, as well as mine.

Phi Theta Kappa has opened my eyes to the opportunities of leadership and service which are two very important aspects of our world today!

## WORDS OF A WARRIOR

### What has been the best part about your time at East Central?

BY MADELON TAYLOR  
EDITOR

**Courtney Williams • Hickory  
Sophomore • Communications**

*Answer: The new friends that I have made, and getting involved with things on campus that I had never done before. The new friendships and new experiences have been the best.*

**Christopher Yarbrough • Florence  
Sophomore • Drafting Design  
Technology**

*Answer: The way that the teachers really care about you and your education, and the people here are great.*

**Anthony Emmons • Lake  
Sophomore • Secondary Education**

*Answer: The best part is the feeling of home at EC.*

**Jalen Cox • Leesville, La.  
Sophomore • Physical Therapy**

*Answer: The people.*

**Evan Derrick • Morton  
Sophomore • Pre-Med**

*Answer: The best part about EC for me is the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere that it provides. The school allows me to feel like I can go to anyone and talk to them, including faculty and staff members.*

**AaLiyah Smith • Meridian  
Sophomore • ASN-Nursing Program**

*Answer: The people you meet. You get to know everybody and gain new friendships. Eventually you become family and it's like having a home away from home.*

**Darryl Rogers • Laurel  
Sophomore • Vocal Performance**

*Answer: How easy the transformation from high school to college was my first year. Coming to college was scary. When I first got here I never expected for the administration and the professors to help me as much as they did making my first to this last year of college easy and comfortable to me.*

**BriiAnna Bout • Decatur  
Sophomore • Liberal Arts**

*Answer: Getting to live with my best friends.*

**Kaelin Gentry • Philadelphia  
Sophomore • Liberal Arts**

*Answer: Making memories with friends that I will cherish forever.*

**Jeremy Huddleston • Philadelphia  
Sophomore • Liberal Arts**

*Answer: Being a part of the band experience.*

**Kim Reyes • Forest  
Sophomore • Criminal Justice**

*Answer: The friends, staff, and friendly environment.*

**Brittney Rawson • Forest  
Sophomore • Elementary Education**

*Answer: Being able to cheer for the Warrior football and basketball teams with friends that I will have for a lifetime.*

## NOTICE! Safety Memo: Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today for heating and cooking as well as other natural gas appliances. Natural gas for East Central Community College is delivered through a jurisdictional natural gas pipeline system. Like any form of energy, though, it must be handled responsibly. East Central Community College is known as a Master Meter Operator and has valves, regulators, and pressure stations on campus. Always remember safety first when operating natural gas appliances of any kind.

Natural gas is a nontoxic, colorless, and odorless fuel that is lighter than air. This lighter-than-air quality is an important safety factor. If a leak occurs, natural gas will mix readily with air and rise into the atmosphere. As a safety measure

the natural gas that is piped to your home or business has a harmful odor similar to rotten eggs so that you can easily detect even the smallest amount of gas that might escape.

From design and construction to operations and maintenance, natural gas utilities like ours set high standards to keep natural gas pipelines incident-free.

**Damage Prevention**  
Although safe, tested, and regulated, the system's most common hazard is from 3rd party damage from excavation. Before any are done, contact Dig Safety-Mississippi One-Call System, Inc. 1800-227-6477 or 811 and call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266. Always call before you dig. It's as easy as dialing 8.1.1, and it's the law!

**Detecting A Natural Gas Leak**

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

**Look.** Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.

**Listen.** An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.

**Smell.** In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance called mercaptan to create the familiar, rotten-egg like odor usually associated with natural gas. You should take action even if you detect only a faint odor of natural gas in the air.

**Natural Gas Safety Tips.**  
Here are some key words to help

you remember what to do if a natural gas leak is suspected:

-Leave. Leave the area immediately. Do not try to find or stop the leak.

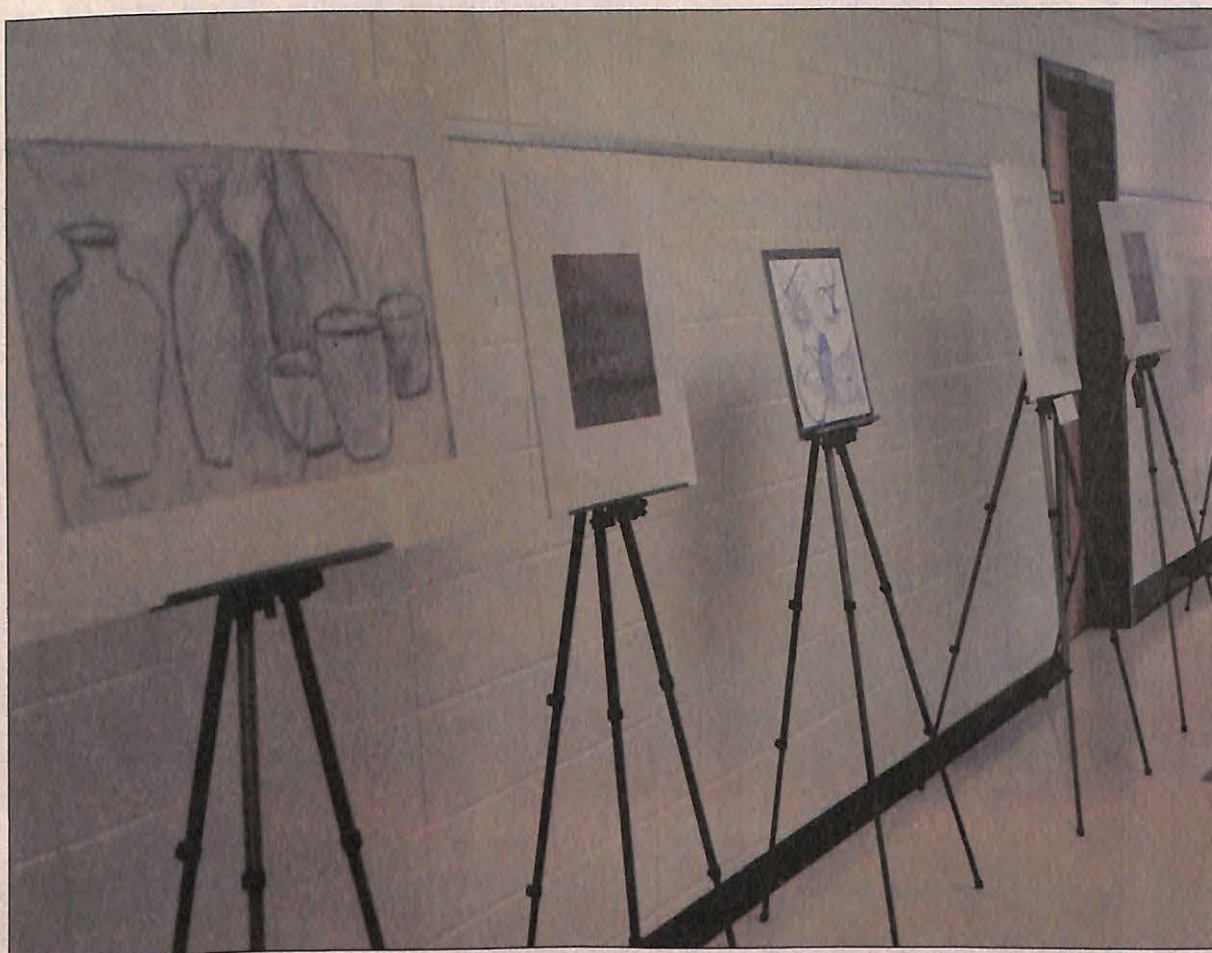
-Don't touch. Do not smoke, use cell phone, flashlight, turn on or off any lights or appliances or operate any kind of vehicle equipment that could create a spark.

-Dial. Immediately notify us. If a leak is suspected call the following number 601-635-6266 or 601-686-2256.

-Remember- Never try to find the leak yourself!!

-To Report a Gas Leak call East Central Community College at 601-635-6266 or Campus Police at 601-527-8939.

For additional information, contact East Central Community College at 601-635-6266 or 601-635-6298.



Student art work was on display in the Vickers Fine Arts Center Lobby recently. Jeffrey Hodges serves as art instructor.



Wall O' Sound marched in the Inaugural Parade for Gov. Phil Bryant in January. The 2015-16 edition of the Wall O' Sound boasted 170 members.

## Student Art Exhibition held in Vickers Lobby

The East Central Community College Art Department hosted its 2016 Student Art Exhibition Monday, April 18, through Friday, April 29, in the lobby of the Vickers Fine Arts Center Auditorium.

A reception was held Wednesday, April 20, in the lobby of the Vickers Fine Arts Center. Refreshments were provided by the college's Culinary Arts department.

The exhibition featured drawings, paintings, sculpture and designs produced by EC students during the 2015-2016 school year.

Students whose work was featured included: Madelyn Ball and Amaziah Sierra, both of Louisville, Blake Barnes of Lena, Sarah Barfield of Walnut Grove, Amber Chaney of Conehatta, BriiAnna Bout of Decatur, Shawna Bush of Lawrence, Jala Hobson of Brandon, Michael Hackett of Union, Madison Kennedy of Little Rock, Kristie Kitchings of Carthage, Sydney Keith of Philadelphia, Kayley Pennington of Pelahatchie, Lauryn Tucker of Pearl and Caleb Welch of Brandon.

Jeffrey Hodges serves as art instructor.

## Wall O' Sound Marches in Inaugural Parade

The East Central Community College Wall O' Sound Marching Band participated in the Inaugural Parade for Mississippi's Gov. Phil Bryant Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016, in downtown Jackson.

Interim director Ed Girling received the invitation on Dec. 8 from Inaugural staff member Gordon McMullin on behalf of Governor Bryant and the First Lady.

Girling said, "This was an excellent opportunity for the college in general and specifically for our band program. The inaugural parade only comes around once every four years and participation is by invitation. For most of our students, this will be their only chance to participate in history. What an honor for the college and the band."

Following the Inaugural Ceremonies, the governor and his family made their way to the Governor's Mansion, leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands and floats. The governor, his family and other elected officials viewed the parade as it passed in front of the grandstand in front of the mansion.

The 2015-16 edition of the Wall O' Sound boasted 170 members and performed for each home football game and for selected road games and Christmas parades. The band's most recent performance was during the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas, where the Warrior football team defeated Kilgore College 35-21.

Nearly 50 percent of our students are transfers,

**Nearly 50 percent of our  
students are transfers,  
so we understand where  
you're coming from and  
where you want to go.**

Explore new Transfer Scholarship opportunities at Southern Miss.  
**[usm.edu/admissions/transfer-scholarships](http://usm.edu/admissions/transfer-scholarships)**

View majors and degree plans:  
**[usm.edu/undergraduate](http://usm.edu/undergraduate)**

Apply for admission:  
**[choose.usm.edu](http://choose.usm.edu)**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN  
MISSISSIPPI**

